



General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

126th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 4 September 2012, 4 p.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar)

The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

Agenda item 138 (continued)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/66/668/Add.14)

The President: I should like, in keeping with established practice, to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/66/668/Add.14, in which the Secretary-General informs the President of the General Assembly that, since the issuance of his communication contained in document A/66/668/Add.13, Yemen has made the payment necessary to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in document A/66/668/Add.14?

It was so decided.

Announcement regarding the results of the election of the Chairpersons of the Main Committees

The President: I should like to inform Members that, following the consecutive meetings of the Main Committees, this morning the following representatives have been elected Chairpersons of the six Main Committees of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session and are accordingly members of the General Committee for that session: First Committee, Mr. Desra Percaya of Indonesia; Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee),

Mr. Nelson Messone of Gabon; Second Committee, Mr. George Talbot of Guyana; Third Committee, Mr. Henry Leonard Mac-Donald of Suriname; Fifth Committee, Mr. Miguel Berger of Germany; and Sixth Committee, Mr. Yuriy Sergeyev of Ukraine.

I should like to congratulate the Chairs of the six Main Committees for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly on their elections.

Having elected the Chairs of the six Main Committees and the 21 Vice-Presidents for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the General Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session has been fully constituted in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure.

Agenda item 114 (continued)

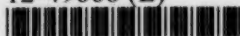
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections

(e) Election of members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (A/66/873)

The President: I would like to draw the attention of members to document A/66/873, in which the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations informs the President of the General Assembly that, according to the agreement among the members of the Group of Eastern European States to rotate their membership in the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law among themselves, Poland relinquished its seat in favour of Croatia on the last

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day prior to the beginning of the forty-fifth session of the Commission, in June 2012.

As a result, a vacancy has occurred and a new member must therefore be elected to fill the unexpired term of office of Poland, which commenced in June 2012, the first day of the forty-fifth session of the Commission.

As the Assembly is aware, in accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, all elections shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations. However, I should like to recall paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, whereby the practice of dispensing with the secret ballot for elections to subsidiary organs when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled should become standard, unless a delegation specifically requests a vote on a given election.

In the absence of such a request, may I take it that the Assembly decides to proceed to the election on that basis?

It was so decided.

The President: May I therefore take it that the Assembly wishes to declare Croatia elected as a member of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for a term of office beginning on the first day of the forty-fifth session of the Commission, in June 2012, and expiring on the last day prior to the beginning of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, in 2016?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 114?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 34 (continued)

Prevention of armed conflict

Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/889)

The President: I would like to remind members that, as announced at the 97th and 124th plenary meetings, the debate on agenda item 34 and its sub-item (a) will take place at a later date, to be announced.

Members will recall that, under agenda item 34, the Assembly adopted resolutions 66/253 A at its 97th plenary meeting, on 16 February, and 66/253 B at its

124th plenary meeting, on 3 August. Members will also recall that the Assembly heard an oral report by the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 66/253 A, at its 99th plenary meeting, on 2 March.

The Assembly now has before it a report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 66/253 B, circulated in document A/66/689.

(spoke in Arabic)

As we meet today in the General Assembly, millions of Syrians remain in a state of enormous uncertainty, fear and the threat of death in their own country. Every day defenceless Syrians are fleeing their homes, communities and cities to seek security and refuge in neighbouring countries. Others, who have not been able to leave Syria, have been left stranded and displaced in schools and public buildings. United Nations agencies now estimate that some 2.5 million Syrians are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

As we discuss the situation in Syria today, thousands of Syrians, the majority of whom are women and children, have been killed since the uprising started, in March of last year. Despite the best efforts of the Assembly and other bodies so far, killings and gross human rights violations continue to take place in Syria. The Government of President Bashar Al-Assad has failed to protect its own citizens. Instead, it has turned its guns on its own people, in total disregard of international norms and its international commitments.

I reiterate my strong condemnation of the deadly violence in Syria. I continue to strongly urge all parties to put the people of Syria first, to set aside all political and ideological differences and to work with the United Nations and the international community in order to find a lasting solution to the crisis.

As the fighting has escalated, conditions have been untenable and impossible for the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic to do its work fully and properly. The Security Council has now agreed to create a liaison office to support international efforts for a political solution. That is an important step and represents a crucial consensus on the need to keep a United Nations presence in Damascus.

After our last meeting here in the Hall on 3 August, the respected diplomat His Excellency Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi was been appointed as the new Joint Special

Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

Mr. Brahimi takes over from former Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan, who did his utmost to secure a ceasefire and implementation of the six-point plan. I should like to thank Mr. Brahimi for accepting this critical and challenging assignment. I have extended to him my best wishes and full support. He deserves the full support of all Member States.

The General Assembly has chosen not to stay silent in the face of the ongoing killings, massacres and crisis in Syria. It adopted relevant and important resolutions in February, June and August, strongly condemning the continued widespread and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities. It has called repeatedly on the Syrian Government to stop killing its own people. It has shown its clear commitment to protecting ordinary Syrians from the violence and death being inflicted on them by their own Government. It has called for an all-inclusive, Syrian-led political process. Those calls still stand.

Today, we need meaningful action. Today, the General Assembly needs to do all in its power under the United Nations Charter to help the Syrian people overcome the appalling political turmoil and the terrible loss of life in their nation. The killing must stop now. The massacres must cease immediately. The gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law must end, and those who commit such atrocities must be brought to justice.

The General Assembly's response, engagement and commitment concerning Syria are clear expressions of its important role, as envisaged in the United Nations Charter. The Charter requires the Assembly to take steps, where necessary, to promote and ensure international peace and security. This has become all the more necessary because of the deadlock and lack of unity within the Security Council. The General Assembly has demonstrated its role, relevance and legitimacy in this regard. I wish to commend and thank Member States and representatives in the Assembly for their support for me as President of the Assembly in this regard.

(spoke in English)

I now give the floor to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I thank the Assembly for this opportunity to report on the situation in Syria and the implementation of resolution 66/253 B, adopted on 3 August. This is our first opportunity to welcome the new Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi. I know he is counting on the Assembly's collective support for his difficult mission. We also welcome the appointment of Mr. Nasser Al-Kidwa as his Deputy.

I have just returned from Iran, where I took part in the Sixteenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement. I engaged in frank dialogue with the Iranian leadership on a number of important issues, including the situation in Syria. I also had in-depth discussions with Mr. Nabil Elaraby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, and met with former Prime Minister Al-Halqi and Foreign Minister Al-Moualem of Syria. I thanked them for the Syrian Government's support for Mr. Brahimi's appointment, and we discussed the need for a small liaison office now that the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic is drawing down.

I thank all the countries that contributed personnel. They performed with courage and dedication in the most difficult and dangerous circumstances.

While in Tehran, I repeated my consistent demand that all sides must cease all forms of violence. In particular, the Government must halt its use of heavy weapons. I also expressed my deep concerns about the humanitarian situation, and stressed the urgent need for the Syrian Government to authorize more international humanitarian organizations to work with us inside the country.

United Nations agencies will need to expand their presence in Syria, too. The humanitarian situation is grave and deteriorating, both in Syria and in neighbouring countries affected by the crisis. Humanitarian organizations continue to scale up their response in Government- and opposition-held areas alike, and in neighbouring countries.

However, we are constrained by underfunding. The \$180 million humanitarian response plan is only half-funded. Some critical sectors have received almost no funding at all, while overall needs are growing. The most pressing needs are water and sanitation, shelter, essential items such as blankets and hygiene kits, and emergency medical assistance. More than

2.5 million people in Syria, including Palestinian and Iraqi refugees, need assistance. More than 1.2 million people are displaced inside the country. The number of Syrian refugees registered in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq is now more than 225,000 and rising. These Governments have generously opened their borders and accepted their responsibility to shelter those who have sought refuge. They urgently need support. Just this weekend, Jordan increased its appeal for funding to meet the growing demands.

We also have to recognize the risk that violence could spill over into neighbouring countries. The conflict is intensifying. The longer it goes on, the more difficult it will be to contain, the more difficult it will be to find a political solution, and the more challenging it will be to rebuild the country and the economy.

This is the context in which Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi takes up his duties. I thank him for taking on this task. It is daunting but not insurmountable. To succeed, he needs the Assembly's united and effective support to help the warring parties realize that the solution will come not through arms, but through dialogue that respects the universal rights and freedoms of all Syrians.

My report (A/66/889) reflects the situation as of 17 August. It is much worse today. We have since witnessed another mass killing in the town of Daraya. This crime must be fully and independently investigated. The conflict has taken a particularly brutal turn. Syrian Government forces continue indiscriminate shelling of densely populated areas with heavy weapons, tanks and air assets. Opposition groups have stepped up military activity. Civilians bear the brunt of the violence. Even people in line for bread have been attacked. Large-scale human rights violations have been reported. Prisoners on both sides are subject to harsh treatment and often torture. There have been alarming reports of summary executions on both sides.

Government forces and the armed opposition have clearly failed to protect civilians and respect the rules of international humanitarian law.

We must ensure that anyone, on any side, who violates international humanitarian law or human rights law is held to account.

The United Nations and its partners are doing all we can inside and outside Syria. But we have to ask if we have done enough, and if we have done the right

thing. The first responsibility to end the conflict lies with the parties, and in particular with the Government. But we, too, have a collective responsibility to find ways to help the Syrians to end the violence and resolve their differences through peaceful means. All elements of Syria's rich and diverse society need to be reassured that their rights and freedoms will be respected. Fears of sectarian retribution must be alleviated.

But first, we need to facilitate an end to the fighting. The continuing militarization of the conflict is deeply tragic and highly dangerous. I appeal to all outside parties, especially the countries of the region, to do all they can to end this trend. Those who provide arms to either side are only contributing to further misery and the risk of unintended consequences as the fighting intensifies and spreads. Regional leaders have a key role to play in creating the conditions conducive to a solution. I call, too, on the Security Council and the Assembly to find common ground so we can help the Syrian people to start charting a way towards an inclusive, peaceful and democratic political transition that will be decided by Syrians themselves.

A number of initiatives to resolve the conflict were put forward in Tehran. Other initiatives and meetings are on the horizon. But missing from all of them is a unity of effort that will have an impact on the ground. How many more will be killed and wounded, their lives shattered, before President Al-Assad and his advisers are persuaded to change course? How can we convince armed groups that a better future lies not in fighting, but in building the foundations of a new political and social contract that guarantees freedom and justice? How many children will attend the funerals of their parents, and how many parents will weep at the funerals of their children, before all parties agree to end the violence and destruction?

The Syrian people have waited too long. And now the entire region is being engulfed by the complex dynamics of the conflict. Solving this crisis was never going to be easy, but it has become more complex with each passing month. I once again urge the Government and the armed opposition to abandon military activities, engage in dialogue, protect civilians, and abide by their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law.

The United Nations will assist all parties to build a Syrian-led alternative to the use of force. We are committed to helping them determine a path,

backed by the international community, to come to the negotiating table and move towards a democratic, plural political system with equal rights for all. Joint Special Representative Brahimi will help to facilitate such a political solution and transition, as called for by the resolutions of the Assembly, the Security Council and the League of Arab States. He has already been working diligently, consulting closely with the members of the Security Council. After this meeting he will go to Cairo for further consultations with the League of Arab States before proceeding as soon as possible to Damascus.

I appeal to Members today to provide solid and unified support for his difficult and essential mission.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

As noted in my letter dated 29 August 2012, I have invited the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, to participate in today's meeting. If there is no objection, and without setting a precedent, may I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to invite the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, to make a statement at this meeting?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with the decision just taken, I now give the floor to the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi.

Mr. Brahimi: It is a great honour indeed to come to this Assembly as I prepare to start my difficult mission. I thank you, Mr. President, for your kind words, and I am deeply thankful to the Secretary-General for his confidence and support.

As the Secretary-General has just said, in a few days time I shall go to Cairo to see Mr. Nabil al-Arabi, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, to express appreciation for his confidence and to benefit from his advice and guidance, as I have benefited from the Secretary-General's.

The Secretary-General has just described the grave situation that prevails in Syria today. It has been deteriorating steadily. The death toll is staggering, the destruction is reaching catastrophic proportions and the suffering is immense. I am looking forward to my

visit to Damascus in a few days time, and also, when convenient and possible, to all the countries that are in a position to help the Syrian-led political process become a reality, leading to a transition that respects the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and enables them independently and democratically to determine their own future.

The future of Syria will be built by its people and none other. The support of the international community is indispensable and very urgent, but it will be effective only if all pull in the same direction. As I told the Secretary-General a few days ago, I, my Deputy Mr. Al-Kidwa, and the members of my team will spare no effort to participate in the common endeavour to find peace for the people of Syria.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My country, Syria, has accepted the appointment of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States. My country has stated its full readiness to cooperate with him in order to ensure the success of his work, which he has just very clearly described.

In that connection, I would like to underscore that the resignation of Mr. Kofi Annan should not be a reason to ignore the six-point plan adopted under Security Council resolution 2042 (2012). We call on all Arab, regional and international parties that have influence over the armed groups — in particular those States that refused to meet Mr. Kofi Annan and to cooperate with him or whose representatives made destructive and negative statements days after he took over — to cooperate with Mr. Brahimi in implementing their commitments under resolution 2042 (2012), as well as the rules of international law and the Charter.

The Syrian Government has responded to its people's demands and meticulously and open-mindedly addressed all efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully, including Mr. Annan's six-point plan. Regrettably, disregarding the rest of the plan, some parties decided that only one of its points, or rather half a point, should be implemented.

Syria supported Kofi Annan's plan and cooperated with the observer mission and with General Mood. It provided all necessary facilities in the context of the understanding with the United Nations and Mr. Annan and of Syrian national independence in such a way as to achieve the Syrian-led political process underscored by Security Council resolutions 2042 (2012) and

2043 (2012) and just described by the Secretary-General and Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi. In a statement made by its Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Syria officially welcomed the final communiqué issued by the Action Group for Syria in Geneva on 30 June.

The operations conducted by the law enforcement authorities and the Syrian army since the beginning of the crisis arise from the obligation, shared by every State Member of the United Nations, to protect its civilians and public and private property, to combat terrorism and to prevent violence. The authenticity of our Government's statements to Member States regarding the presence of armed groups undertaking terrorist acts, regrettably fuelled by Arab, regional and international parties that are now well known to all, has become crystal clear to everyone, including the Secretary-General and senior officials of the Secretariat, who initially were cautious, as representatives will recall, about the activities by terrorist armed groups within Syria.

However, it is regrettable that such groups have more than once been referred to as being on an equal footing with the Syrian Government, which, as a legitimate Government of a sovereign State and a founding Member of the Organization, is obliged to protect Syrian society and its security and stability under the Charter and international law. Despite increasingly destructive activities that would challenge any Government, and the fact that those acts have been accompanied by the imposition of unprecedented comprehensive sanctions against Syria by some States, the Syrian Government is well aware of its responsibilities and duties towards its people.

It has directed all its energy towards restoring infrastructure and services and to providing medical, food and financial assistance. It has also strived to coordinate national governmental and non-governmental efforts to meet the needs of those affected by the current events, and to make all necessary facilities available to international efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy by facilitating the access of international bodies and non-governmental organizations to affected areas. Those entities include the World Food Programme, which is undertaking highly commendable work, the International Committee of the Red Cross and its head, who was in Damascus to meet our President, and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, which is doing critical work in the field. It is also fully cooperating with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which has led to a

response plan being drawn up together with the United Nations entities working in Syria.

In that regard, I wish to mention the statement made by the Secretary-General regarding the fact that a lack of funds remains one of the main obstacles to the response plan. The sum total of contributions to the OCHA response plan has not reached more than 39 per cent of the required amount. No Arab or Islamic State has contributed.

Currently, the contributions to the regional response plan of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have not exceeded 54 per cent.

We reaffirm, in that regard, Syria's full preparedness for and welcome of any sincere international effort to provide assistance to Syrian citizens for exclusively humanitarian purposes, taking into consideration that our people were not in need of anyone's assistance before the gross external interference in our internal affairs. That brazen interference is designed to destroy our infrastructure and undermine the socio-economic success we have achieved over the course of decades. Of the 38 main hospitals in Syria, 13 are out of service. Seventy per cent of the medicine-producing factories have been burned in Halabja. The main telecommunications cable between Damascus, Homs, Hama and Halabja has been targeted 20 times, while hundreds of schools have been destroyed, museums plundered, populations evicted and their homes and places of worship plundered. Unfortunately, certain mentally defective individuals have invented a new kind of jihad which they call the "jihad of lusts", based on their forays into Syrian refugee camps to marry young girls between the ages of 14 and 16 years old, which they consider to be a form of jihad or struggle.

In that connection, I call on all my Syrian brothers to participate in reconstructing what has been damaged by the crisis and to help restore security and stability in our country and to establish the rule of law, which imposes rights and duties on all of us to protect citizens from the scourges of corruption, nepotism and partiality, and to protect the State from outlaws. All of that naturally depends on tolerance, reconciliation, confidence, joint national action, and resistance to external agendas.

As Syrians, all of us are duty-bound to realize that the solution is to be found only through a comprehensive, political, Syrian-led process that satisfies the legitimate

aspirations of all Syria's citizens. Such a process would entail a comprehensive national dialogue, bringing together all Syrians who believe in our country with a view to establishing a pluralistic democratic State where everybody will be equal. Syria has enjoyed the wellspring of its civilization, characterized over thousands of years by coexistence, diversity, tolerance and a pioneering role. Despite the painful hiatus in our history that we face today, that wellspring will endure through the will of our citizens and not at the mercy of the radical Wahhabist-Salafist petrodollar, which is blindly loyal to Western hegemony over Syria's political fate and options.

In conclusion, on behalf of my Government I welcome the appointment of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States. I affirm that Syria is open-minded and fully committed to the mission of Mr. Brahimi to end the violence and find a Syrian-led political solution to the crisis in my country, as set forth in the six-point plan and Security Council resolutions 2042 (2012) and 2043 (2012). That is the crux of the Geneva communiqué (S/2012/523, annex). On this occasion, I call on all Member States, particularly those with direct influence over the parties that have rejected political dialogue and the cessation of violence. I shall not name those Member States today, but it is clear to whom I am referring. I call on them in particular to follow in the footsteps of the Syrian Government and lend an earnest helping hand to Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi. We wish him every success.

Mrs. Ribeiro Viotti (Brazil): I thank the Secretary-General for his briefing on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/253 B on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. We welcome the new Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, and thank him for his presence with us today and for his statement.

As we continue to closely follow the situation in Syria, we have been appalled once again in the past few days by the news of yet another mass killing of civilians, this time in Daraya, near Damascus, where more than 200 people may have been murdered. Brazil condemns and repudiates that heinous act of violence and the continuation of gross violations of human rights in Syria.

According to the report of the Secretary-General (A/66/889), the Government and the opposition continue to vie for a military solution in Syria in the mistaken logic that weapons would assure them final victory. Brazil deeply regrets that the parties insist on taking the path of armed conflict and call on them yet again to stop the violence immediately and engage in effective negotiations. We reiterate that the Government of Syria has the primary responsibility to put an end to violence and to create the conditions for a successful political process. In turn, the armed opposition must fully reciprocate. The international community in general, and key actors in particular, also have the historic and grave responsibility to avoid contributing in any way to further militarization of the conflict.

In the year in which we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention and redouble efforts for its universalization, it was especially disturbing to learn some weeks ago of public statements regarding the possible resort by Syria to chemical weapons. We took note subsequently of the public commitment made by Damascus to respecting its obligations under the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

Since we deplore the possession of weapons of mass destruction by any country, we reiterate our call on the Syrian Government to refrain from their use under any circumstances. The already visible effect of the conflict on Syria's neighbours, especially Lebanon, is a source of growing concern. The international community must continue to support the Lebanese Government in its efforts to ensure the country's political stability. Urgent consideration must be given to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria and neighbouring countries.

The international community must unite to help the Syrian people, as well as the countries that are sharing the burden of the increasing influx of refugees, notably Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. Brazil has announced a contribution to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. We appreciate the efforts being made by the United Nations and several Governments to mitigate the suffering of the Syrian people. Such efforts should be strictly confined to the humanitarian area and avoid any association with political, diplomatic or military actions or initiatives.

We wish Mr. Brahimi every success and firmly support him in his challenging mission. Brazil considers that the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the matter, as well as the final communiqué of the Action Group, offer a good basis for his endeavour to persuade all parties that there is still time for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): It has been said that the further back you look, the further forward you can see. This truth hangs over the General Assembly today. Long before Al-Assad's planes demolished major cities, long before his thugs murdered entire families in their homes, long before the death count rose well above 20,000, the dangers of inaction were unmistakable. The duty of the international community was clear long ago. It still is.

The daily slaughter in Syria represents the dying breath of a tyranny that goes back four decades. As Bashar Al-Assad was getting ready to graduate from high school, his father massacred tens of thousands in Hama. Years later, the keys to the regime's presidential palace and killing machine were passed down from father to son. We know what this regime represents. It does not stand for human rights or human dignity. It does not stand for democracy. It does not stand for pluralism or freedom. Before our eyes, we see the brutality and cruelty that Al-Assad is willing to unleash on his own people.

The words of the Syrian representative earlier reminded me of the story of the man who murders his parents and then cries out, "I am an orphan". He had the audacity to stand in this Hall and ask the international community for funds to care for the people that his Government is brutalizing on a daily basis. It is time for all our voices in the Assembly to be clear. Bashar Al-Assad has no moral authority to govern. He never did. The sand in his hourglass is running out.

Iran's dream for the region is the Syrian people's nightmare. Iran is the problem in Syria, not the solution. Every day it provides Al-Assad with the tools of mass murder. Iranian revolutionary guards are on the ground today assisting Al-Assad's henchmen. They have been deployed on Syrian soil to help sustain the Syrian regime and take part in the slaughter of the Syrian people. The outside forces that have been instrumental in Al-Assad's killing spree speak with a Persian accent. Asking the Iranian regime to take part in developing solutions for Syria is like inviting the Mafia to head

the murder investigation squad of the New York Police Department.

Along with Iran, the Hizbullah terrorist organization forms the third arm of Al-Assad's trio of terror. Hizbullah has hijacked the Lebanese Government and transformed the south of the country into an Iranian outpost for terror. Make no mistake — when the Lebanese delegation speaks in this Hall about Syria, the black shadow of Hizbullah hangs over its shoulder. The Hizbullah chief Hassan Nasrallah sits on Al-Assad's advisory board, offering the tyrant of Damascus guidance on how to butcher his own people more effectively. As Nasrallah recently told a cheering crowd, Syria is a real military partner for Hizbullah. This is the same organization that is the self-proclaimed protector of Lebanon. The world cannot ignore the frightening reality that Al-Assad's stockpiles of chemical weapons could soon be placed in Hizbullah's hands. All must wake up to this danger today, not tomorrow. Action is necessary. The red lines are very clear.

The people of Syria are not the indiscriminate victims of a natural disaster. They are not the tragic fatalities of a famine. They are not the accidental casualties of war. They are the deliberate targets of a brutal regime that will commit any crime and cross any line to cling to power. It does not make a difference or matter where one comes from, what politics one preaches or what faith one belongs to; no decent human being can stand silent in the face of what is happening in Syria.

Israel will continue to raise its voice for the people of Syria. We extend our hand to them, offering humanitarian aid, food and medicine. History's lessons echo in this Hall today. Our moral imperative is clear. Yet the slaughter continues, the casualties mount and the violence goes on. The voices of the victims call to us. We must all be there for them.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting to discuss the Secretary-General's report (A/66/889) submitted in compliance with resolution 66/253 B, adopted on 3 August. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the Joint Special Representative, His Excellency Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, for their statements.

I take the floor in response to the Secretary-General's invitation to Member States to utilize today's meeting to

express unqualified support for Mr. Brahimi's mission. Since the General Assembly's last meeting on this agenda item (see A/66/PV.124), the situation in Syria, as both the Secretary-General and the Joint Special Representative pointed out, has deteriorated further. The conflict has become increasingly militarized and has been exploited by well-known terrorist groups. A number of terrorist acts have been committed against State institutions and public infrastructure. There have been gross violations of human rights by all sides.

Unfortunately, the Syrian parties, instead of embarking seriously on a Syrian-led political process, have pursued a military approach to realizing their objectives. The efforts of the international community have so far failed to address this crisis, which is increasingly affecting the region as a whole. The deteriorating situation, security-wise, has exacerbated the humanitarian suffering of the Syrian population. More than 2.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, with an ever-increasing number of internally displaced persons and refugees.

We strongly condemn all violence and violations of human rights, irrespective of who their perpetrators are. We also condemn in the strongest possible terms the terrorist acts that have been and continue to be committed in Syria. We call upon all parties, Syrian and foreign, to dissociate themselves from terrorist groups and to ensure that no space or justification is provided for such acts.

In the prevailing circumstances in Syria, there is an urgent need for the international community to close ranks and send a united message to the Syrian parties, urging them to recommit themselves to resolving the crisis peacefully through a Syrian-led, inclusive political process that can meet the legitimate aspirations of all Syrian citizens. There is no other way to bring about a sustained cessation of violence in all its forms by all parties.

In order to assist the Syrian parties to change their course and address the crisis through political dialogue, it is important that all parties inside and outside Syria fully abide by their obligations under the relevant United Nations resolutions. India firmly believes that it is critical for the United Nations to remain strongly engaged with the Syrian parties and other actors in the search for a way forward. Accordingly, we have consistently called for and supported international efforts to help the Syrian parties to resolve the crisis

and bring about peace through dialogue and political processes. We also strongly support the Secretary-General's efforts in this direction.

In conclusion, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to welcome Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria and reiterate our strong support for his mission. We are particularly encouraged by his assertion that he and his deputy will spare no effort to work towards finding a solution. We also urge all sides, Syrian and foreign, to cooperate with Mr. Brahimi in good faith so that the Syrian crisis can be resolved without further bloodshed.

Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria): Algeria welcomes the appointment of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, and deeply appreciates his willingness to bring his considerable experience to bear on the crucial task of ending the violence and suffering in Syria. We extend our full support to him while expressing our appreciation and thanks to his predecessor, Mr. Kofi Annan, who has sought to unite the international community around key principles.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the situation in Syria (A/66/889). Algeria fully shares the views outlined in the conclusions of the report, in particular with respect to the pre-eminence of the political solution and the extremely important role of diplomacy in promoting a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

My delegation also shares the concerns of the Secretary-General about the continuing militarization of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and its grave humanitarian consequences. We join the appeal of the Secretary-General to all parties to abandon the military solution, cease military activities, engage in dialogue, protect civilians, and abide by their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law.

It is time for the international community to close ranks and to send a united message to the Syrian parties to walk back their military approach and to embrace the only path to bringing about an end to the violence and a sustainable peaceful solution through an inclusive, Syrian-led political process.

Mr. Al Habib (Islamic Republic of Iran): At the outset, with respect to the appointment of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as Joint Special Representative of the United

Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, I should say that we are pleased to see him take up his new position. Taking into account his good reputation and broad experience in addressing issues of a sensitive nature, we are confident that he will also rigorously pursue the goal of finding a comprehensive and peaceful political settlement to the Syrian crisis. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to work with him closely, as we did with Mr. Kofi Annan, in following up on sound policies to contribute to the resolution of the ongoing crisis. We are supportive of any constructive, unbiased, impartial and peaceful Syrian-led political process, and we stand ready to play a constructive role in that process. It is only through such a process that a broader political reconciliation and the national unity, integrity and stability of Syria will be maintained.

The continuation of violence and the levelling of recriminatory allegations against one another not only do not provide a solution to any problem, but inflame the situation even further. Unless there are meaningful measures to curtail such destructive moves, any peaceful solution will have little chance of success.

There is also an urgent need for all international and regional players that have any influence in one way or another on this very critical issue, which has regional and international ramifications, to express their genuine interest and take serious action to find a Syrian-led political process to resolve the crisis peacefully. Unfortunately, a destructive role is being played by some countries in supporting the violent armed groups in Syria, in total disregard of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria and of the principle enshrined in the United Nations Charter and international law that prohibits interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States. Some of these countries are maliciously seeking regime change in Syria through coercive measures. This is clearly illegal, and is condemnable under the very basis of international law.

We believe that only the Syrian people should decide their political fate. We are deeply concerned about the disastrous consequences of different forms of foreign intervention in Syria. What has exacerbated the crisis in Syria are just such interventions, in the form of arms and sophisticated equipment being sent across the border to the rebels and terrorist groups. The international community, in particular regional and international players, should be strongly supportive of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi's mission to encourage the

political parties to engage in political dialogue with the Syrian Government in order to prepare the ground for a peaceful political process. The Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously supporting such a process and has reiterated its readiness to host talks between the Syrian Government and opposition parties.

In conclusion, the representative of the Zionist regime has once again made nonsensical and baseless allegations about my country. The international community is fed up with that regime and its inhuman, aggressive, criminal policy and terrorist activities in the region and elsewhere. That is the main source of insecurity and instability in the Middle East. This is the regime whose officials, in the face of all the relevant international law, frequently threaten to attack my country militarily. This is the twenty-first century, not the nineteenth. It is ridiculous that the representative of a regime whose hands are soaked with blood talks about democracy and human rights.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's meeting. We are also grateful to the Secretary-General for his report (A/66/889). Let me reiterate our congratulations to Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi on his appointment as Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and welcome him here today. He has a noble, if onerous, task in which failure is not an option, for that would be a failure of the very ideals that the United Nations espouses.

The worsening humanitarian crisis in Syria has imperilled millions. We note with anguish that issues of access and funding continue to impede efforts to prevent the crisis from morphing into a catastrophe. All parties must ensure the availability of relief, especially to those who are most in need.

Efforts to provide humanitarian relief will remain hamstrung in the absence of a Syrian-led political solution, which is critical to addressing the deteriorating security and humanitarian situations. Without a restoration of normalcy, Syrians cannot even begin to rebuild their shattered lives.

Like all Members of the United Nations fraternity, we are deeply concerned that violence in Syria is spiralling out of control. Both sides appear to favour belligerence over engagement. That is deeply distressing. We earnestly hope that better judgement will prevail. Both parties must realize that violence only begets violence, and should invest their energies

in a political process. It is only through inclusive dialogue that Syrians can chart a course towards a stable, secure and prosperous future. The Government of Syria must also meet its commitments by creating conditions conducive to the start of such a process. The irresponsible, indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force, by whomever, must cease forthwith.

From the beginning, Pakistan has advocated a peaceful, Syrian-led resolution of the conflict. We believe that the six-point plan of the Joint Special Envoy and the final communiqué of the Action Group provide workable bases for such a solution. The international community should approach the issue with an open mind and be willing to move away from established positions. The highest priority should be a cessation of violence. This is not the time for posturing and polemics. We will support the efforts of the Joint Special Representative as we supported those of his predecessor. All parties, inside and outside Syria, should rally around Mr. Brahimi.

Pakistan believes that reviving efforts aimed at achieving a political settlement is the need of the hour. As the Joint Special Representative said during his opening remarks, the first priority should be the interests of the Syrian people. Let us hope that the Joint Special Representative will succeed in bringing all parties together to find a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis and end the vicious cycle of death and destruction immediately. In so doing, he will find in Pakistan a steadfast partner.

Mr. Rishchynski (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Let me first thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to speak and present Canada's view of the Syrian crisis.

(*spoke in English*)

As we demonstrated, following the appointment earlier this year of Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan, today Canada wishes to underline its unequivocal support for Mr. Brahimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, in his efforts to end the violence in Syria and find a way forward so that a Syrian-led political process can take root and bring about a solution to the conflict.

Canada deplores the continued violence in Syria. Canadians are deeply concerned about the mounting death toll, the growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons, and the impact of the crisis on neighbouring countries. We are concerned that the escalating violence will inflame sectarian tensions,

and that the continued instability is providing fertile ground for the expansion of terrorist networks. Canada is also very concerned that in this highly volatile environment, one in which we know that chemical weapons stockpiles are in existence, such weapons will not be involved in furthering the wanton violence we are currently witnessing.

Canada calls on the Security Council to impose tough, binding economic sanctions on Syria, in an effort to pressure the Al-Assad regime into ending its violent campaign of terror against its own people and allow an inclusive, Syrian-led political transition to occur. Canada calls on Russia and China, which have sheltered the Al-Assad regime from international sanctions, to abandon that path and work with the rest of the international community to use their influence with Syria to bring about a peaceful resolution to this crisis. Canada supports the efforts of the Syrian people to achieve a free, democratic and pluralistic Syria that respects human rights and the rule of law.

The Assembly can assure that Canada will remain a leader in providing humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people, having already made a commitment of some \$18 million for assisting those civilians, especially women and children, who are victims of the deplorable violence being inflicted on them on a daily basis.

The President: We have heard the last speaker on this item. Several representatives have asked to exercise their right of reply. May I remind members that statements in the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for this first intervention and 5 minutes for the second, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): The statement made with reference to the great British statesman Winston Churchill — that the further back you look, the further forward you can see — is correct to some extent. However, the representative of Israel fell into his own trap when he chose to quote Churchill. In mentioning him today, he also should have referred to the Balfour Declaration, made by another British politician regarding the establishment of Israel in Palestine and thus deciding the fate and future of the people of Palestine.

He relinquished what was not his to those who in truth had nothing, namely, a people scattered throughout the world owing to crimes for which Arabs were in no way directly or indirectly responsible. In doing so, he

bowed the interests and agendas that served the Zionist mentality. Reflecting on the past therefore helps us to understand the Israeli culture of terror, which has consumed thousands of hours of work and decades of time. That thorny issue has occupied generations of diplomats in this Hall.

The instability in our region, the wars and the spreading of a culture of terrorism are factors that can be grouped under one heading of Israeli terror, which has affected vast sectors of the population within and outside the region as a result of Zionist extremism and its rejection of and failure to accept others. That does not stem from the culture of our region. It is completely alien to it.

The representative of Israel, who gave the misleading and deceptive impression that he loves the Syrian people and that he is saddened by their suffering, indeed forgets that his country has continued to occupy the Syrian Golan since 1967, putting our people under the yoke of occupation, imprisonment, persecution, death and displacement. To date, half a million people have been displaced from the Syrian Golan. They patiently wait to return to their homes in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), as well as hundreds of other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. Instead of complying with those resolutions, which call on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan, successive Israeli Governments have ignored and flouted international law. Israel has refused to participate in the peace process that has been supported by all Member States.

Such insolence by Israel within this international Organization could not have been perpetuated so flagrantly without the support and backing of the protectors and sponsors of its terrorism and illegal practices.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to begin by taking this opportunity to welcome

the appointment of Mr. Brahimi as Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to Syria. We wish him every success so that he can help put an end to the cycle of violence in our brotherly country of Syria. I also take this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to the independence, territorial integrity and unity of Syria.

It is an irony of history that the representative of the State with the richest heritage of non-compliance with the hundreds of resolutions adopted by this body and of the many examples of violations documented by reports from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Israeli human rights organizations such as B'Tselem, which are crammed with examples of the atrocities inflicted on the people in Palestine, the Syrian Golan and Lebanon, has taken it upon himself to give lessons on human rights.

My country's delegation has always spoken in favour of the principles upheld by all our Governments, including international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the rights of peoples to self-determination, freedom, democracy and dignity.

Mr. Nitzan (Israel): The Syrian representative's cynical attacks on my country today are just another desperate attempt to divert attention from the real issues before us. The human rights violations occurring in Syria pose a serious threat to stability in that country and throughout the region.

Israel once again shares the international community's serious concern about the dire situation in Syria. As always, we are ready to work with our neighbours to promote peace, stability and freedom in the Middle East.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 34.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.



General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

127th plenary meeting
Monday, 10 September 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 13 (continued)

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Draft resolution (A/66/L.58)

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly held a debate on agenda item 13 jointly with agenda item 63 and its sub-items (a) and (b) at the 32nd and 33rd plenary meetings, on 11 October 2011.

I now give the floor to the representative of Liberia, who will speak on behalf of the African States to introduce draft resolution A/66/L.58.

Ms. Farnagalo (Liberia): It is with honour that I introduce, on behalf of the African Group, draft resolution A/66/L.58, entitled "Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015".

In the past 10 years, more than 1 million lives have been saved and mortality has been reduced by more than a quarter globally and by more than a third in Africa through the collaborative efforts of Governments, United Nations agencies, international organizations, donor agencies and other stakeholders. Notwithstanding those gains, the grim reality is that malaria is still a global threat, affecting 99 countries globally and contributing to 655,000 deaths per year. Africa bears the brunt of this burden. Malaria kills a child in Africa every minute. The African region accounts for 81 per

cent of malaria cases occurring worldwide; 90 per cent of malaria deaths occur in the region, with 86 per cent being children below five years of age.

The devastating impact of malaria on Africa cannot be overstated. The social and economic toll is significant, impacting our people, our Governments, our communities and, inevitably, our livelihoods. Financial costs to individuals and families for treatment of the disease, and in many cases for funerals, are substantial. Public health interventions against malaria and ensuring consistent supplies of antimalarial drugs burden Governments' public health expenditures. Not to be understated is the loss in productivity and income.

Malaria control remains an emergency globally, and even more so for Africa. The challenge now for the global community is to intensify efforts and commitments to avoid the reversal of the gains made thus far and to push for greater progress in sustainable interventions. That also includes the intensification of resource mobilization. It is estimated that \$3.2 billion in aid will be needed through 2015 to overcome the current funding deficit and continue the fight to eliminate Malaria. "Addressing this shortfall will prevent a health disaster", as noted by Her Excellency Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia and current Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance.

This year's draft resolution maintains last year's language with the exception of a few technical updates and new developments. The new components are as follows: the welcome of the designation by the

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Secretary-General of malaria as one of his top priorities under his second mandate and his commitment to developing new partnerships and improving existing ones and to scaling up high-impact interventions aimed at significantly reducing the number of deaths from malaria; the call for increased support for the implementation of international commitments and goals pertaining to the fight to eliminate malaria, as stipulated in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; recognition of the need for additional funding for malaria interventions and for research and development of preventive, diagnostic and control tools from the international community; the recognition of the impact of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership; and the encouraging of sharing across regions of knowledge, experience and lessons learned with regard to the control and elimination of malaria, particularly between the African, Asian-Pacific and Latin American regions. The draft resolution conclusively requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization and in consultation with Member States, to report on the implementation of the draft resolution at the sixty-seventh session, and specifically on progress to achieve the 2015 targets of the Abuja Declaration and the Global Malaria Action Plan, as well as Millennium Development Goal 6.

Our gratitude goes out to the representatives who participated in the consultations for their engagement, transparency, constructive contributions and demonstrated spirit of compromise. Further appreciation goes out to the sponsors of the draft resolution. We invite other delegations to join the sponsorship today.

We look forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus as in previous years.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/65/L.58, entitled "Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Zhang Saijin (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution and in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have become

sponsors of draft resolution A/66/L.58: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Honduras, Monaco, Montenegro, the Republic of Korea and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.58?

Draft resolution A/66/L.58 was adopted (resolution 66/289).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 13?

It was so decided.

Agenda items 14 and 117 (continued)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution (A/66/L.55/Rev.1)

The President: Members will recall that, at its 72nd plenary meeting on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly held a debate on agenda item 14 jointly with agenda item 117, agenda item 123 and its sub-item (a), and agenda item 124. Members will also recall that, under agenda item 14 and agenda item 117, the Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/66/763 at its 112th plenary meeting on 4 June 2012.

I now give the floor to the representative of Jordan to introduce draft resolution A/66/L.55/Rev.1.

Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan): I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the main sponsors, Japan and Jordan, the draft resolution contained in document A/66/L.55/Rev.1. I also have the privilege to address the General Assembly as the Chair of Human Security Network, which consists of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Mali, Norway, Panama, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand, with South Africa participating as an observer.

As the Assembly is well aware, at the 2005 World Summit our leaders and Heads of State emphasized the pivotal role of human security and mandated the General Assembly to define the notion of human

security. Consequently, in 2010 the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/291, by which the Secretary-General was able to seek the views of the membership on a common understanding of the notion of human security, in accordance with paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

In his report (A/66/763), which reflects the various views of Member States, the Secretary-General proposes important elements that constitute a common understanding on human security. As I announced to the General Assembly during the formal debate on 4 June (see A/66/PV.112), the delegation of Japan and my own delegation launched, on behalf of the Network, open and inclusive informal consultations that enjoyed the very active and constructive participation of all Member States. As a result, those consultations have produced for the first time a common understanding on the notion of human security for the Assembly's consideration today.

The present draft resolution recognizes human security as an approach designed to assist Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their peoples. As an approach, human security calls for, first, the right of people to live in freedom and dignity and free from fear and want; secondly, people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all peoples and all communities; and thirdly, recognition of the interlinkages between peace, development and human rights, while equally considering civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Therefore, human security is, first, distinct from the responsibility to protect and does not entail the threat or the use of force or coercive measures. Secondly, it is based on national ownership, as Governments retain the primary role and responsibility for ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of their citizens, while the role of the international community is to complement and provide the necessary support to Governments upon their request. Thirdly, and last but not least, human security must be implemented with full respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

In addition, the draft resolution recognizes the role that human security could play in achieving development, acknowledges the contributions made

so far by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, and invites Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to the Fund. Indeed, during the past three months, Member States have shown great interest in achieving a common understanding on human security that would help in advancing its implications at the national, regional and international levels. Japan and my country, Jordan, are grateful to all delegations that participated actively in negotiations and managed to bridge the gaps between different points of view. On behalf of Japan and Jordan, I ask the Assembly to now adopt the draft resolution under consideration.

Before concluding my introduction, I would like to thank all sponsors for their great and appreciated support, and of course the facilitators, Ambassador Jun Yamazaki and Counsellor Mohammad Al Nsour, for their remarkable efforts.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/66/L.55/Rev.1, entitled "Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Zhang Saijin (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution and in addition to those delegations listed in document A/66/L.55/Rev.1, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Australia, Benin, Chile, Fiji, Honduras, Liberia, Madagascar, Nauru, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Tunisia and Uganda.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.55/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/66/L.55/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 66/290).

The President: Before giving the floor to the speakers in explanation of vote, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Siddique (Pakistan): I have the honour to speak in explanation of vote on resolution 66/290, entitled "Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome".

Before commenting on the substance of the resolution, we would like to put on record our deep appreciation for the skilful handling of the negotiation process by the two facilitators, Japan and Jordan. Despite our differences in views on certain aspects of the resolution, it has been a rewarding professional experience to negotiate that important text with all partners. We would accordingly like to congratulate the facilitators on the successful adoption of the resolution today.

Pakistan considers the notion of human security an important tool for the States Members of the United Nations for identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their peoples. We have accordingly supported the resolution.

We also welcome the fact that the resolution clearly distinguishes the notion of human security from controversial elements such as the responsibility to protect, the threat or use of force or coercive measures, which have led to the undue polarization of this concept. Important elements, such as the State's primacy in ensuring the survival and livelihood of its citizens, national ownership of the notion and its implementation with full respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, add to the credibility of this concept.

Based on the origin and evolution of the notion of human security, Pakistan continues to believe that it must have a development-oriented focus to ensure equitable progress in addressing the inherent inequalities that lead to violations of human rights at the national and international levels. Paragraph 4 of the resolution therefore conveys the core message that while development, human rights and peace and security are the three pillars of the United Nations, development is a central goal in itself, and that the advancement of human security should contribute to realizing sustainable development as well as internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. We regret, however, that the text does not contain any reference to the right to development, which would have strengthened and appropriately contextualized the notion of human security.

Pakistan looks forward to working with all partners in promoting this concept in its proper context — that is, development — and expresses the

hope that its implementation will lead to genuine international cooperation, whereby Member States are assisted, upon their request, to strengthen their development capacities to respond to current and emerging threats and challenges.

Ms. Alsaleh (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, we would like to thank the facilitators, the representatives of Jordan and Japan, for their efforts to arrive at a common agreement on the term "human security", in keeping with the provisions of the Charter and the principles of international law, while reaffirming the rights of people to development, freedom and a life of dignity free from poverty and despair.

My country's delegation joined the consensus on resolution 66/290, entitled "Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome", on the basis of our firm conviction of the importance of clearly and precisely defining this important concept and that any ambiguous definition could lead to politicization and unilateral interpretations, undermining the foundations of the international law that govern international relations. All of these factors could seriously jeopardize the implementation of this important concept.

My delegation should like to reiterate its understanding of the resolution. We wish to emphasize the fact that the concept of human security encompasses the following principles.

First, it involves a commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter, in particular the need to uphold the territorial integrity of States and to respect the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs, the exclusive responsibility of the State to protect its citizens, and its right to assess the risks and dangers to its people's security and decide on the means to deal with them. In other words, any assistance on the part of the international community should be granted upon the request of the State concerned, with its consent, in order to implement the international consensus embodied in many United Nations resolutions on humanitarian action, the most important of which is resolution 46/182. In this respect, we affirm that the human security of individuals cannot replace the security of the State and society or be given priority over them.

Second, this concept involves the basic principles of international humanitarian law, in particular the right of peoples to self-determination — especially

peoples under foreign occupation — and the inalienable rights of all peoples to exploit their natural resources in accordance with international law.

Third, the concept of human security is based on the right to development. Indeed, human security is based on sustainable human development, economic development and the elimination of poverty and underdevelopment by bridging the gap between North and South, by ensuring justice, energy security and the transfer of technology, and by eschewing unilateral economic sanctions imposed by States and other entities against developing countries in a manner not consistent with international law.

Fourth, the concept of human security is based on universality and not selectivity, and on the need to avoid any double standards in addressing international crises, while safeguarding the specific cultural and religious elements of all communities. The concept of human security has not been created to apply only to the States of the South. There must be guarantees for its implementation by all Member States, without recourse to discretionary political Powers and far from the hegemonic centres of power.

Fifth, there is a need to focus on worldwide institutional reform in order to formulate an adequate response to threats to humanitarian security, as trade laws and international investment law do not stipulate the need to establish a link between economic concerns and international human rights. Some multinational companies engage in practices that are in violation of individual economic rights in the countries where they operate.

Sixth, reform of the system of international assistance is an important question that has an impact on the way in which humanitarian and security issues are dealt with. This entails the need for developed countries to be convinced to offer assistance to poor countries, as the increasing pressures that developed countries are bringing to bear on natural resources mean that they must compensate poor countries for the damage done.

Seventh, hegemonic Powers must stop fanning internal tensions in States by providing funding, equipment and media and political coverage to further their own agenda. This exacerbates the problems in such countries, where citizens already find it difficult to ensure their livelihoods and throw off the yoke of poverty.

Mr. Maksimychev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation did not join in the consensus adoption of resolution 66/290, on human security, because the text does take many of our proposals into account.

Moreover, we are not convinced of the need for the very concept of human security or its added value for the work of the United Nations. We are not convinced that the notion of human security can offer anything particularly new to the work of the Organization; rather, we are afraid that it could lead to an excessive politicization of discussions.

In our approach to human security, we base our views on the fact that the term "human security" should be used only in the context of socio-economic development, in line with such principles as the non-use of force or threat of force, which run counter to the principles and provisions of the United Nations Charter concerning the non-interference in the internal affairs of States and respect for national sovereignty. Governments, which bear the primary responsibility for ensuring the security of their citizens, must themselves identify the challenges that, under each country's specific national conditions, create obstacles to survival or to ensuring their peoples' well-being and dignity. The role of the international community is to provide Governments, at their request and with their consent, the assistance necessary in building their capacity to overcome those challenges.

Mr. Escalona Ojeda (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to take this opportunity to thank the facilitators of resolution 66/290, Ambassador Jun Yamazaki of Japan and Counsellor Mohammed Ali Al Nsour of Jordan, for their tireless efforts and the transparency they demonstrated.

In the spirit of being constructive, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela decided to join the consensus in the Assembly on this resolution. Nonetheless, we would like to emphasize that, although we have made progress towards a common understanding of the concept of human security, we must continue to work together on the process of defining that concept, its scope and its implementation within the United Nations system. We will always be ready to participate in a totally open and and collaborative fashion in that process.

My delegation took an active part in the negotiations on this resolution, presenting its view of the concept of human security clearly and transparently. For the

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, that concept can in no way challenge State security; in that sense, the concept of human security is subordinate to State security. State security is the cornerstone of the Charter of the United Nations. The chief concern of those who drafted the Charter was to put an end to acts of aggression between States. A system was therefore established that would safeguard the security of States, embodied in the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence and non-interference in States' internal affairs.

In that regard, it should not be the role of human security to weaken States' security or endanger the system of international relations that governs relations between nations. On the contrary, the role of the concept of human security should aim to complement the role of State security. By emphasizing development, human security can become a national policy capable of promoting human well-being. The State continues to be the entity best able to ensure the security and the greatest happiness of its citizens and of people throughout the world. For that it will rely on the backing of the concept of human security.

Ms. Nemroff (United States of America): The United States values the concept of human security as an important innovation in our thinking about the purposes and principles of the United Nations. It encourages us to think about the interconnected nature of security in the twenty-first century, and insists that we keep high on our agenda consideration of the vulnerability and insecurity that plague too many individuals around the world, whether from extreme poverty, disease, natural disaster, oppression or conflict. Those are important values. We express our appreciation to the delegations of Japan, Jordan and others, which have led efforts to elaborate the concept.

In the context of the United Nations, human security has been a sensitive issue. There is a wide array of views on what human security is and is not, and a shared definition or understanding has been elusive. Indeed, from the concept's very beginnings there has been a tension between the ideas of freedom from want and freedom from fear. In our view, both of those are important to a holistic understanding of human security. While we appreciate the efforts that have led to the adoption of resolution 66/290 today, the United States wishes to explain its position on three of its elements.

First, we believe the text does not sufficiently capture the diversity of views on human security and, in particular, gives insufficient weight to the very real human insecurity and fear that arise from such threats as human rights abuses, discrimination and conflict. Secondly, with reference to paragraph 3 (d), while we agree that the concept of human security is distinct from the responsibility to protect and its implementation, we do not see that the reference to the responsibility to protect is necessary or helpful in advancing either human security or the responsibility to protect. Thirdly, with regard to paragraph 3 (h), the United States has strong reservations about the use of selective references to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. The Charter is a prescient, sophisticated and balanced document. It affirms the centrality of human rights and fundamental freedoms alongside other essential purposes and principles of the United Nations. The United States firmly opposes the selective treatment of Charter principles, which only serves to diminish the true value of the Charter as a whole.

Mr. Sun Xiaobo (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China would like to emphasize the following three points with regard to the issue of human security.

First, the concept of human security originated with United Nations Development Programme reports on development. Human security is in essence an issue of development. Helping developing countries to emerge from poverty as quickly as possible, achieve sustainable economic and social development and implement the Millennium Development Goals should be a priority and the central aim of a human security policy.

Secondly, Governments have the primary responsibility for ensuring the survival, development, dignity and security of their peoples. Human security must be based on the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, namely, respect for national sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs and other basic principles of international relations. The pursuit of human security should not lead to the use of coercive measures, and even less should it be used as an excuse for carrying out humanitarian intervention.

Thirdly, Member States still have different interpretations of the definition and the concept of human security. It is necessary to continue the in-

depth examination of its content and extension so as to achieve a clear and widely accepted definition.

China hopes that the General Assembly will continue its examination of the notion of human security.

Mr. Selim (Egypt): The adoption by consensus of resolution 66/290, entitled "Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome", as the first substantive resolution on the notion of human security only reflects the level of maturity that the discussions within the General Assembly have reached on the notion since 2005.

Egypt was pleased to join the consensus, which enabled the general membership to lay down one of the foundations guiding future discussions of the notion by the Assembly. In that regard, we extend our appreciation of the skilful handling of the negotiation process by Japan and Jordan and for ensuring that the principles of transparency and objectivity are observed. We also appreciate the constructive engagement of most delegations in the negotiation process.

Although, as of yet, we have not developed a clear definition of the notion of human security, the parameters of the common understanding reached in the current resolution set the framework for the general membership to continue its consideration of the notion within the following criteria. First, in particular, it is distinct from the concept of the responsibility to protect and thus does not entail the threat or use of force or coercive measures. Secondly, that it does not replace or undermine the principle of State security. Thirdly, while it seeks to promote the right of people to live in freedom and dignity free from poverty and despair, it should fully respect the principle that Governments retain the primary role and responsibility for ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of their citizens. Its implementation should be in full accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, namely, the sovereignty of Member States, respect for their territorial integrity and non-interference in their domestic affairs.

For Egypt, the central goal of human security is to support the pillar of development — an aspect that we recognize has been stressed in resolution 66/290. We will strive to work towards achieving that. In that regard, the advancement of human security should contribute significantly to achieving the goals of sustainable development, as well as internationally

agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Egypt reaffirms that future discussions in consideration of the notion of human security must be only within the General Assembly. They should be in accordance with the aforementioned parameters, referenced in the current resolution, including deliberations on the modalities of its application within the United Nations system, thus enabling the general membership to ensure its good use for the benefit of all Member States.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

I now give the floor to the representative of the European Union.

Mr. Vrailas (European Union): I will deliver this explanation of position on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

First, let me thank the facilitators, Ambassador Jun Yamazaki of Japan and Counsellor Mohammad Ali Al Nsour of Jordan, for their commendable leadership and tireless efforts throughout this process, which has successfully produced the first substantive resolution of the General Assembly on human security (resolution 66/290). As the General Assembly has proceeded to the adoption of the resolution, allow me to share a number of considerations.

At the outset, I would like to reaffirm that the European Union remains committed to promoting and will continue to support human security as a comprehensive, integrated, people-centred and prevention-oriented approach to address interrelated threats to the security, livelihood and dignity of people and vulnerable communities. As such, it remains also one of the priorities of the European Union at the upcoming sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

The European Union has actively engaged in the General Assembly with a view to reaching an agreement on the resolution. We acknowledge that significant progress has been made in advancing human security since the adoption of resolution 64/291 in 2010. The reports of the Secretary-General and General Assembly debates, as well as intergovernmental negotiations, have contributed to that progress. The resolution adopted today is the overall positive outcome of our collective efforts. However, ultimately, what matters most is the

work at the field level and its impact on people's lives and livelihoods. If we are to achieve further progress, future intergovernmental deliberations at the United Nations should be guided by such field work, ongoing projects and their lessons, and best practices.

The elements of the common understanding contained in the resolution are useful to elucidate the boundaries of the human security concept and to avoid possible interferences with other approaches. The European Union and its member States continue to believe that reaching a common understanding on human security is not an end in itself but a means of advancing implementation of human security in United Nations activities at the field level in a coherent and non-duplicative manner.

Throughout the process that led to the adoption of the resolution, we have reiterated the basic principle of interdependence and mutual reinforcement of the three pillars of the United Nations. The report of the Secretary-General (A/66/763) rightly recalled that human security is precisely about linking the three pillars through the protection and empowerment of the individual. We therefore very much welcome the human rights references in the text, the explicit mentioning of the interlinkages between peace, development and human rights in the preamble and paragraph 3 (c) and the references to empowerment and people-centred responses.

Such elements are central to human security, and we will continue to strongly underline the equal status and interdependence of those three pillars. We will not enjoy development without peace and security or without development; we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights.

With reference to paragraph 3 (e), we underline that coercive measures must remain part of the toolbox available to the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, as well as individual States, in order to ensure that States comply with their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law. That is important to the European Union as sanctions are an instrument of our foreign policy. In that context, we reaffirm the primary responsibility of States to fulfil their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law.

As stated in paragraph 3 (h), human security must be implemented with full respect for all the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

The European Union and its member States fully support that view, while strongly opposing any selective approach that singles out only some of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and omits others that are equally relevant and important. Selective quotation of the Charter can potentially undermine the core principles of the United Nations and negatively affect our work at the Organization. Promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is central to human security. Furthermore, Article 2 of the Charter is absolutely clear on the principles that should guide the United Nations and its members in the pursuit of the Organization's objectives.

Respect for all human rights and the rule of law must remain at the core of any application of the human security approach. Human rights should be mainstreamed and integrated into all aspects of the work of the United Nations, and human security should not be an exception. Promoting the rights of those in vulnerable situations is a key concern, including with respect to their representation in decision-making, as well as ensuring them better access to justice, services, work and social opportunities. These are issues that need our full attention, and the human security approach should enhance our ability to work even harder to reach these goals.

The EU will continue to support a pragmatic and action-oriented approach, focusing on working in areas where human security can bring added value in terms of the protection and empowerment of individuals.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 14 and 117.

Agenda item 117 (continued)

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Specific meeting focused on development

The President: The General Assembly will resume its consideration of agenda item 117 to hold a specific meeting focused on development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/265, of 30 June 2006.

Members will recall that the General Assembly held a debate on agenda item 117 jointly with agenda item 14, sub-item (a) of agenda item 123 and agenda item 124, on 2 December 2011. Members will also recall that

under agenda item 117, the Assembly adopted resolution 66/2 at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2011.

I am pleased to welcome all participants to this development dialogue of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The General Assembly development dialogue was established as a specific meeting focused on development aimed at assessing the progress being made in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This year's theme is "Macroeconomic policies for the future we want: sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals". The objective is to examine how macroeconomic policymaking affects the achievement of the MDGs and how it can accelerate progress in transitioning to a more sustainable development paradigm.

Just this past June, I was in Rio de Janeiro and witnessed the adoption by world leaders of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) Summit. The document, entitled "The future we want", has the goal of defining pathways to a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world for all. Achieving those objectives requires the balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection.

The Rio+20 outcome document, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288, provides a solid foundation for advancing social, economic and environmental well-being. It also calls for a wide range of actions, including the establishment of a process to develop and fully define global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly.

The outcome document also recognized the importance of adopting forward-looking macroeconomic policies that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. In addition, such policies should increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development.

The recent global economic downturn has severely disrupted economic growth worldwide and caused significant setbacks in the progress being made towards achieving the MDGs. The global financial and economic crisis has now turned into a jobs crisis, with millions of men and women — especially young

people — becoming unemployed or underemployed. An increasing number of families and individuals are struggling to sustain their livelihoods. Many others have to cope with a reduced income and high and volatile food and energy prices.

Current macroeconomic governance and policies have proved less than adequate in containing the risks emanating from the current fragile global economy. There is a growing recognition of the fact that macroeconomic policymaking needs to be revisited and reshaped to better achieve macroeconomic stability and sustainable development.

However, there is always a cure for every scourge. I have full confidence in the ability of the international community to overcome the problems posed by this difficult and challenging time by providing the necessary collective response. Particular focus is being placed on how macroeconomic policymaking can be reshaped to achieve stability, create employment and decent work, and promote productive capacities, including in the green economy. That revision is crucial for reducing poverty, advancing social equity, achieving the MDGs and thereby advancing sustainable development.

It will therefore be important to give full consideration to an effective integration of macroeconomic policy-making into the post-2015 development agenda. Today's dialogue will help us to build on the outcomes of the Rio+20 summit. It provides an excellent opportunity to deepen our understanding of the interlinkages between macroeconomic policies, sustainable development and the achievement of the MDGs. The deliberations of the General Assembly will feed into the work of both the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the High-level Panel on the Global Development Agenda beyond 2015.

Regarding the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, allow me to recall that I have designated Her Excellency Ambassador Maria Luiza Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil, to serve as facilitator on my behalf in the establishment of this process. I reiterate my call to all participants to extend their cooperation and support to her, particularly by exercising flexibility and a spirit of compromise.

This development dialogue is a timely conclusion to the efforts made under my presidency in the field of sustainable development and global prosperity, one of the four key pillars I chose for our focus during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

Over the past year, we have had several opportunities to address the anxieties of peoples worldwide on the critical issues of jobs, food security, and how to secure a better future for our children and their children. It is in that context that, among other initiatives, I convened the high-level thematic debate on the state of the world economy and the high-level thematic debate on excessive fluctuation of commodities prices. I would like to take this opportunity to thank delegations, the Secretary-General and all my partners for their cooperation and support towards the success of those meetings.

The United Nations exists for these noble objectives — to coordinate international efforts to serve the best interests of people worldwide. I am therefore glad that our dialogue here today is being held in the same spirit to find the means to invest in the future we want. I look forward to members' active participation, creative ideas and concrete recommendations to effectively address this challenging theme.

To help steer our deliberations here today, we are fortunate to count on the assistance and expertise of two accomplished experts. The Secretary-General's Senior Adviser on Economic Development and Finance, Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, will act as moderator of the interactive session. Ms. Nancy Birdsall, our guest lecturer, is founder and President of the Center for Global Development, a prestigious thinktank based in Washington, D.C. To both of them I would like to express my appreciation for accepting my invitation to participate. I wish us all successful deliberations.

I now give the floor to the Deputy Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson.

The Deputy Secretary-General: I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address this session of the development dialogue on behalf of the Secretary-General, who is today in Geneva. It is a particular privilege and pleasure for me to again be in the Hall and to speak from the podium.

Economic policy has been front page news since the outbreak of the global financial crisis in 2008, as we all know. We should expect those issues to stay in the headlines for some time. Many countries continue to face deep-rooted economic problems that seriously affect vulnerable segments of their populations.

I am gratified that those issues are being scrutinized by experts, the media and the public. There is a great deal of healthy debate, while policymakers are

struggling to come up with appropriate and effective approaches to economic problems with tangible social and environmental ramifications.

The debate has been hovering between two choices. The first is to provide more fiscal stimulus to get back on the growth track, unclog credit channels and take measures to bring down unemployment. The second choice is to shift into fiscal austerity to reduce public debts to more sustainable levels.

The decisions facing policymakers in developing countries are particularly difficult to make. Commodity and financial markets are volatile. Policymakers may need to create fiscal and monetary reserve buffers to cope with the external shocks. But they know that those precautionary steps can also impact their capacity to invest in development.

The choices they make today are not theoretical; they will have effects on whole societies, on families and especially the poor. Women and youth are particularly vulnerable. That is why we should welcome the intention of the President of the General Assembly and the development dialogue to establish a clear connection between macroeconomic policies and the fundamental objective of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

One of the most important tasks for the United Nations and its Member States and, in fact, all other stakeholders during the next three years and four months is to work tirelessly for the achievement of the MDGs. That is our duty and responsibility. Macroeconomic policies of today should facilitate that task. Achieving the MDGs by 2015 is part of the future we want and that the people of the world deserve.

We then later face the daunting task of formulating a bold, yet practical, development agenda for the post-2015 period that embraces economic, social and environmental perspectives. I note that the President referred both to the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals, set up in Rio de Janeiro, and the High-level Panel on the Global Development Agenda beyond 2015, which is starting its work in September.

We must not lose sight of that broad and long-term perspective. The conventional approach to economic development in recent decades focused on low inflation and balanced budgets as the best ways to stabilize economies in the short run and ensure growth in the long term. Those policies did not make full employment

an explicit target. It was almost as if macroeconomic policies were not part of the work for daily sustenance and poverty reduction. In reality, as the President just underlined, those policies can spell the difference between stability and crisis, between prosperity and poverty, and even between life and death.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the importance of those interlinkages, not least the need for creating jobs. Participants supported forward-looking macroeconomic policies that promote sustainable development. The aim was nothing less than sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. That is and must be the way forward in order to increase productive employment opportunities and promote development. That means that we have to allocate more resources to the key sectors: employment, education and health. That would reduce poverty and open doors to a better future for coming generations. At the same time, it would contribute to economic stability and long-term growth.

We also have to invest in protecting the environment, our common future. If the environment is degraded, crops may fail, food prices may go up and natural disasters may become more frequent and more deadly, as we have noticed recently. The economic, social and, indeed, political implications of environmental degradation and climate change are serious and far-reaching.

As participants begin this dialogue, I urge them to have a broad and forward-looking vision. Short-term gain should never occur at the expense of long-term progress.

Professor Jan Tinbergen, the first Nobel Prize laureate in economics and the first chair of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy, formulated an important rule for economic policymaking. He stated that we should always have as many policy instruments as we have policy targets. That means that we need more instruments as we add more targets. The way to do that is to integrate economic policy decisions with social, environmental and industrial and labour market policies.

Before I was appointed as Deputy Secretary-General, I was in fact a part-time blogger. I wrote about the issues participants are discussing today — poverty, hunger and, very often, the lack of clean water and acceptable sanitation facilities. My audience was made up of policymakers, but also concerned citizens. I tried

to bring the plight of individuals, which I had seen far too much of, to a broader public.

Although today's discussion is mainly among experts, I urge participants to remember the men, women and children whose lives are affected by their deliberations and decisions. Let us focus on how we can reach them and help them. In the end, all our efforts should be aimed at well-being and a life in dignity for all.

I wish participants a meaningful, creative and productive development dialogue.

The President: I thank the Deputy Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico, who will speak in his capacity as Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. De Alba (Mexico), Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to recall, at the start of this dialogue, that almost four years ago the global financial system was on the brink of collapse. A new great recession similar to the one that occurred in the 1930s seemed inevitable. In order to avert the risk of systemic collapse, there was a need for an unprecedented degree of international cooperation and for bold and united decision-making by our political leaders. Despite progress and signs of recovery, in various parts of the world recovery still seems distant, owing to the slow pace of the return to global economic growth together with the persistent level of trade protectionism, which has worsened in many markets.

That scenario of economic uncertainty no doubt jeopardizes the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, targets that represent a very important multilateral consensus to achieve sustainable human development. The consequences of the global environmental, food, economic and financial crises have had a negative impact on global development, the result of which has been weaker trade, more stringent terms of financing throughout the world and an increase in poverty, hunger and unemployment, which has, in turn, given rise to social tensions in various parts of the world and has endangered environmental ecosystems. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals therefore also depends on the world's economic recovery and on support for, and the implementation of, international development commitments on the

part of advanced economies in favour of developing economies. That was clearly shown in the 2012 *World Economic Situation and Prospects* report, which was broadly analysed during this year's substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

Similarly, in coming here today, we see that it is increasingly evident that we need concerted and determined actions leading to a macroeconomic policy framework for sustained and inclusive development, one that creates quality jobs. It is essential to change the direction of fiscal policies, replacing the short-term consolidation approach with one of long-term growth in order to achieve sustainable public finances. Global economic policies need to be redesigned in order to strengthen their impact on job creation, by transitioning from primarily stimulating demand to promoting structural change with a view to sustained growth.

As a result of the Rio+20 International Conference and its precursors, we have been able to reaffirm the validity of sustainable development as a paradigm of development. We also agreed in Rio to start a process to develop sustainable development goals and establish a process which allows us to develop a sustainable development financing strategy. That strategy will be aimed at mobilizing resources and strengthening global efforts to fight poverty and address problems relating to seas and oceans, food security, water, energy, biodiversity, forests, desertification, urban development and sustainable transport.

The development dialogue organized by the General Assembly today provides us an opportunity

to address those issues, but also — I would like to emphasize — the need to complement the efforts under way, in particular those that were mentioned by both the President of the General Assembly and by the Deputy Secretary-General, in order to achieve a redefinition of the post-2015 development agenda. Such an agenda should include a new version of the development goals, incorporate the sustainable development goals and does not leave aside the efforts that we still have to make to achieve the goals established in the year 2000, which, as the Deputy Secretary-General aptly stressed, deserve all of our attention in the next three years.

In sum, with an overall vision of the actions that should be promoted, we should move towards a more sustainable development model that effectively integrates its three pillars. That is the major challenge before the United Nations. It is the major challenge for the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, namely, to integrate those three pillars in a balanced manner and to renew the global financial and economic architecture.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 117. The informal plenary meeting on the topic "Macroeconomic policies for the future we want: sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals", will be held immediately following the adjournment of this meeting.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.



General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

128th plenary meeting
Thursday, 13 September 2012, 11 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar)

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Agenda item 34 (continued)

Prevention of armed conflict

(a) Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/811)

Draft resolution (A/66/L.60)

The President: Members will recall that, under agenda item 34, the Assembly adopted resolution 66/253 A at its 97th plenary meeting, on 16 February, and resolution 66/253 B at its 124th plenary meeting, on 3 August. Members will also recall that the Assembly heard an oral report by the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 66/253 A, at its 99th plenary meeting, on 2 March, and considered the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/66/889 at its 126th plenary meeting, on 4 September.

One year ago, we inaugurated the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. At that time, I proposed "The role of mediation in the settlement of disputes by peaceful means" as the theme for the session. Due to my strong belief in that concept, I expressed my hope that focusing on the issue would enhance debate and deepen cooperation on that important topic, which lies at the heart of the work of the United Nations.

Today I see with great satisfaction that the past year has been extraordinary in terms of the role of mediation. We have hosted a number of meetings here at the United Nations. Conferences and seminars dealing with different aspects of that matter have also been organized outside of New York. All those activities culminated in the informal high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 23 May, which was attended by ministers and other eminent mediators, representing different regions.

Throughout the session, from the general debate in September up to now, our aim has been to identify the challenges we are facing, to find out answers and solutions and come up with some alternative tools and mechanisms. Brilliant ideas and proposals have been put forward by Member States and other actors on how to render mediation more effective.

I am very pleased to see that those ideas have already started to be developed and that concrete deliberations and actions have taken place to materialize the proposals. Today's adoption of a follow-up draft resolution on mediation reflects the interest of the membership to actively pursue that issue. I am grateful to Member States for their continued interest and support, as well as for their active engagement in that crucial matter.

At this stage, let me express my appreciation to Finland and Turkey for their leadership, as the two co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Mediation, and for their support to me on developing that theme during my mandate.

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During all the meetings and other activities, we have also seen once again the important role in mediation of regional organizations and civil society, in addition to that of the United Nations and Member States. Since every situation is unique, we should benefit as much as possible from the comparative advantages of different actors. That requires seamless cooperation among all.

Today is a special day for mediation. First, the Secretary-General will present his report (A/66/811) and the Guidance for Effective Mediation. We will then proceed to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.60, on mediation. I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate, on behalf of all representatives, our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his genuine leadership and personal commitment to the concept of mediation. I would also like to express my satisfaction with the acknowledgement of my role as the President of the General Assembly in his report. His consensus report before us provides an in-depth and comprehensive analysis. I believe that the Guidance, which he put together after extensive consultations with all relevant actors, will be very useful for mediators at different levels.

I would like to share with representatives a vision that I have always believed in. In my view, dialogue among civilizations offers a complementary approach to preventing and peacefully resolving conflicts. Therefore, during the past year, I have placed a special focus on the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. Today, it is no secret that some disputes are either emanating from cultural or religious differences, misperceptions and misunderstandings, or are exacerbated due to different methodologies and ideologies. The role of the Alliance could be particularly crucial in such situations. I see more room in that sphere for further elaboration. Parallel to that, the Alliance should be strengthened so that it can more effectively fulfil its noble mission. I will continue building useful understanding based on those facts until the last day of my mandate and beyond.

Some past and current crises have shown that if mediation and other peaceful means are used in a timely manner and at an early stage, it is cost-effective. It leads to saving innocent lives and alleviates the suffering of civilians, particularly women and children. It is necessary that we learn from our experiences and employ mediation in a more effective manner, because it is the best way out in a crisis situation, if used as a prevention measure.

On our part, at the General Assembly, we should keep the momentum building on mediation and continue to focus on the challenges before us. It is no secret that during this session we exercised the concept of mediation in particular cases, either here at the General Assembly or through field trips. In that regard, I am particularly pleased that the next President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, proposed "The settlement of disputes by peaceful means" as the theme for the general debate this year.

I sincerely believe that, building on the achievements so far within and outside the United Nations, the energy, vision and commitment of the President-elect will further the concept of the peaceful resolution of conflicts for the common good of humankind and for a more peaceful future for all.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I commend the General Assembly for promoting mediation as a key means to realize the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. I am pleased to present to the Assembly my report (A/66/811) on the subject and the Guidance for Effective Mediation.

I thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership and focus on this vital issue. I also thank the Group of Friends of Mediation, co-chaired by His Excellency Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen of Finland and His Excellency Ertuğrul Apakan of Turkey, for their support and leadership.

I share your vision, Sir, and have made strengthening preventive diplomacy and mediation a priority. I wish to see the United Nations and all our partners make full use of the potential of mediation to prevent, manage and resolve disputes and conflicts. We need to have the know-how, the operational dexterity and the partnerships to undertake mediation professionally and effectively.

Many lives are at stake when a conflict reaches a stage that requires the deployment of a mediation team. The United Nations has been active in mediation efforts in dozens of disputes and conflicts. Today, the United Nations is supporting mediation and facilitation efforts in all regions of the world with a broad array of local, national and regional partners. That is a signal that more parties are open to the promise of mediation. Yet with growing engagement comes growing expectation. We

must be up to the task, and I am pleased to report that we are making real progress. With the support of Member States, we have worked hard to enhance our readiness to implement and support mediation processes.

The Department of Political Affairs, which anchors many United Nations mediation efforts, has been strengthened. The Department's Mediation Support Unit has become a key provider of mediation services within and outside the United Nations system. Standby teams of mediation experts have been quickly deployed to all corners of the world, from Central Africa to Central Asia, from Europe to the Middle East and to the Americas. We are also doing more to ensure that United Nations envoys and special representatives have the experience, knowledge and support necessary to provide good offices and mediation. This is the day-to-day work of our political missions in the field. Our country teams on the ground are also frequently called upon to help support national efforts to peacefully resolve tensions.

Our mediation work draws on the experience and capacities of the entire United Nations system, including support from the United Nations Environment Programme for natural resources negotiations, the expertise of UN-Women to promote women's participation, and the work of the United Nations Development Programme to assist national and civil society actors in developing their mediation capacity.

However, mediation is not the exclusive domain of the United Nations. Member States, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations are increasingly involved. This diversity of actors is an asset. Each can contribute to the search for peace according to its comparative advantage. In some settings, however, the competition among different players has hampered mediation efforts. It is our common responsibility to work together to support the effective use of mediation. That is why we are increasing our engagement with regional organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations to build mediation capacity, cooperation and networks at the regional, national and local levels.

We must also continue to enhance the participation of women in peace processes. We are now providing gender expertise and appointing women in most United Nations mediation teams, though there is still clearly room for improvement. More and more of our teams are making genuine efforts to consult with women's

organizations systematically throughout the mediation process. There are a growing number of female senior officials who undertake mediation as part of their duties in field missions, and, as I state in my report, I remain committed to appointing a female United Nations envoy to lead a United Nations mediation effort.

Overall, we have improved our support for inclusive and effective mediation processes. If we are to sustain those efforts, mediation efforts must be adequately resourced.

The General Assembly has also requested the development of the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation. It is annexed to the report before the Assembly.

In developing the Guidance, we drew extensively from our own experience as well as from the insights of Member States and others. The result is a foundational document for United Nations mediation efforts and for all interested in the peaceful resolution of disputes. I am pleased that the General Assembly is encouraging all mediation actors to make full use of it.

On 27 September, we will hold a special high-level launch of the Guidance. The event will feature a panel discussion with the participation of a number of eminent mediators. I encourage Member States' Ministers to attend this important event.

As I have often said, mediation can succeed only where there is a commitment to solving a conflict through dialogue and real leverage to back it up. Regrettably, some of the tragedies before us make clear once again the terrible price that is paid for the absence of international unity or a lack of political will from the parties.

While not all conflicts may be amenable to mediation, we must remain engaged and constantly look for opportunities for dialogue. Our commitment to resolve disputes and conflicts peacefully is a central tenet of the Charter of the United Nations, and mediation is a key tool.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General.

I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey to introduce draft resolution A/66/L.60.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution" (A/66/L.60), on

behalf of the Group of Friends of Mediation, chaired by the representatives of Finland and Turkey. Over a year ago, we adopted by consensus its first United Nations resolution on mediation (resolution 65/283).

The draft resolution before the Assembly is a follow-up to that landmark resolution. The aim of the draft is to acknowledge the advances that have been made to further consolidate the role and use of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflict prevention and resolution, including through the use of the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation.

In line with the efforts under way to revitalize the General Assembly, the draft resolution does not repeat major sections of the previous resolution. Rather, it emphasizes the advances that have been made, but at the same time reminds us that further work is necessary.

There are three central elements in the draft: first, taking note of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of resolution 65/283, including the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation asked for in the same resolution; secondly, promoting the use of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflict prevention and resolution through a call on the various actors involved in mediation, as well as through the use of the Guidance; and thirdly — last but not least — the biennialization of the handling of the sub-item on the agenda of the General Assembly in order to make possible a substantive, in-depth consideration of the issue.

We are delighted to bring this consensual draft resolution before the General Assembly at this session. As you, Mr. President, have had mediation as one of your priorities, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your valuable efforts and engagement in connection with this issue. We wish also to thank His Excellency the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for their useful work. We also thank all Member States for their constructive and active participation in the negotiations that led to this draft resolution.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Finland.

Mr. Viinanen (Finland): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends of Mediation, co-chaired by the representatives of Finland and Turkey. The Group currently consists of 32 States Members of the United Nations and several regional organizations and other international organizations.

As highlighted in the introduction of the Secretary-General's report (A/66/811), "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution", the General Assembly, at its sixty-fifth session, took the landmark step of adopting by consensus its first resolution on mediation (resolution 65/283). The aim of the resolution was to consolidate the normative bases, reinforce support to mediation activities and enhance Member States' engagement in mediation efforts. In resolution 65/283, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the progress made on its implementation to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session. The Group of Friends of Mediation warmly thanks the Secretary-General for his report, including its annex on United Nations guidance for effective mediation.

We find the Secretary-General's report to be comprehensive and useful. We appreciate the report's detailed account of the implementation of resolution 65/283. The implementation is well under way, and we believe that mediation has gained more political attention. Further strengthening the United Nations mediation capacity and enhancing the mediation efforts of the United Nations is our common goal.

This is of the utmost importance today, especially when we take into account that, after nearly two decades of decline, the number of conflicts is on the rise again, as noted in the report. Proper resourcing of United Nations mediation efforts is also vital in order to solve these new low-intensity conflicts and older ones. As the Secretary-General's report points out, resources for the majority of United Nations mediation activities and good offices work come from voluntary contributions. We call on Member States to continue to provide voluntary contributions to these activities. We also welcome the efforts of the Department of Political Affairs to further broaden its donor base. Given that mediation is a core activity of the United Nations, providing predictable and stable financing needs to be discussed further in the near future.

The Group of Friends of Mediation notes with satisfaction the positive achievements in the field of partnerships and coordination. Enhanced partnerships and better coordination remain key objectives for our future work. Regional and subregional organizations are important players and partners, and provide valuable contributions to mediation. Mediation often means teamwork. We welcome the Secretary-General's commitment to strengthening the collaboration of the

United Nations with all relevant actors working on mediation issues. We appreciate the holistic approach to mediation, which acknowledges the different actors involved in mediation. Promoting contacts and links between mediation communities and networks is essential in order to improve coordination and cooperation and to address the challenges of the diverse and crowded field of mediation.

The Group of Friends of Mediation highly appreciates the Secretary-General's efforts to increase women's involvement in all stages and levels of peace processes, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). We endorse the four targets set for the United Nations. Progress has been made, but a great deal remains to be done. We encourage efforts to enhance the participation of women in peace processes.

Annexed to the report is a milestone document that deserves much attention, "Guidance for Effective Mediation" (A/66/811, annex I). As the Assembly will recall, resolution 65/283 also requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and other relevant actors, to develop guidance for more effective mediation, taking into account, *inter alia*, the lessons learned from past and ongoing mediation processes. The Group of Friends of Mediation welcomes the publication of the Guidance with appreciation. We value the efforts of the Secretariat to produce the Guidance through a comprehensive, inclusive and transparent consultation process. We value the opportunities given to Member States, regional organizations and civil society to provide input to the Guidance.

Due to the diversity and complexity of conflicts requiring mediation, there is no one-size-fits-all formula to successful mediation. However, there are certain guiding principles that are common in mediation processes. In this context, the Group of Friends of Mediation appreciates the fact that the Guidance discusses the main issues that every mediator and his or her team should take into consideration. We find that the Guidance is a practical reference document for mediators and those involved in mediation processes.

The Guidance highlights that achieving peace is a series of complex challenges. One of the challenges is the multiplicity of actors involved in mediation processes. As a result, a successful outcome often requires combined efforts. A multi-stakeholder effort can work only if the actors involved work together, with coherence of purpose and some level of coordination. During the past years, there have been many initiatives

to improve cooperation and coordination in mediation-related issues, such as the Group of Friends of Mediation. Yet, once again, much more work needs to be done.

The Group of Friends of Mediation is glad to note that the Guidance underlines the importance of inclusiveness, including the participation of women in mediation processes, and of the gender dimension throughout the Guidance. The United Nations plays a central role in standard-setting on the participation of women in peace processes and in best practices in ensuring that the gender perspective is present in all phases of mediation. The Group of Friends of Mediation would like to call on all Member States, regional and subregional organizations and civil society to disseminate and use, as widely as possible, the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation in mediation processes around the world.

The Secretary-General, together with the Group of Friends of Mediation, will launch the United Nations Guidance for effective mediation on Thursday, 27 September. A high-level panel will discuss the Guidance and mediation-related issues in an interactive manner. All Member States and observers, as well as accredited representatives of civil society and the media, are invited to participate, and we will provide further details in the future.

The Group of Friends of Mediation would like to encourage all parties to make better use of the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including mediation. The United Nations, having more experience, expertise and resources than any other organization in mediation and the implementation of peace agreements, has a central role to play. In this context, we view the Secretary-General's report and the Guidance for effective mediation as a key document that reflects and aims to improve this role.

I want to conclude by thanking you personally, Sir, for your leadership during this session of the General Assembly in the field of mediation. Your work is highly appreciated.

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (European Union): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilization

and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The European Union appreciates the strong emphasis given to the topic of mediation during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under your leadership, Mr. President. We are also grateful for the work of the Group of Friends of Mediation under the leadership of its two co-chairs.

Let me thank the Secretary-General for his presentation of his report and the Guidance for Effective Mediation (A/66/811 and annex I). We commend the way the report addresses various aspects of mediation activities and value the Secretary-General's efforts to promote the use of mediation. Based on last year's resolution 65/283, the European Union considers the report and the Guidance to be a positive development that paves the way for further progress.

The persistence of conflicts worldwide fuels the need for strengthened mediation capacities. The value of mediation efforts is more evident in current circumstances. The complexity of many crisis situations contributes to the challenge of mediation and underlines the need for inclusive mediation processes with skilful mediators.

The European Union appreciates the way in which the Guidance was prepared. The inclusive process of consultations enabled relevant actors to contribute to that important endeavour. The outcome is a useful tool for mediators and mediation support teams across the world, which will benefit from its comprehensive approach. By presenting the fundamentals of mediation, the Guidance includes essential elements to be addressed when setting up a mediation process, as well as during the course of mediation efforts. We encourage the wide dissemination of the Guidance, which can serve as a useful reference tool. That will contribute to fulfilling the aim of having a broad range of mediators with the right set of skills and the knowledge of the issues that need to be given due consideration in a mediation process.

Naturally, it is likely that there will be different views regarding some of the points included, as the Guidance in itself is a toolkit, while a particular approach is always defined case by case. Hence, the Guidance does

not offer cookie-cutter solutions to a crisis situation. We welcome the importance attached to vital issues, such as the inclusivity of mediation processes; the coherence, coordination and complementarity of the mediation effort; and the quality of a peace agreement. For instance, the recommendation to have a single lead mediator is very helpful.

Regarding international law, we stress the need for mediators to act strictly within the established normative framework. For example, when it comes to inclusivity, we see that contacts between United Nations mediators and actors who have been indicted by the International Criminal Court are to be limited to essential contact only — for example, to what is required in order to save lives. When it comes to judicial processes, we recall previous reports of the Secretary-General that established that mediators should let justice follow its course.

We welcome the continued strong focus on capacity-building for national and local actors. The report provides many positive examples of national and local efforts, and we need to continue to build on those. The strong emphasis given to women's participation is appreciated, and we encourage the further steps that the Secretary-General intends to take in that respect and to which he also referred in his statement today.

Regional, subregional and other international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, are increasingly involved in mediation activities. The European Union, in its turn, attaches great importance to mediation and continues to develop its own mediation capacities. Considering the growing number of actors involved in mediation, partnerships and coordination have become essential.

Let me conclude by encouraging once more all relevant actors to disseminate and utilize the Guidance for Effective Mediation. We look forward to reviewing further progress on mediation at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes to ensure that in no case are international peace and security and justice endangered, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations. In that regard, we reiterate the need for all States, large and small, regardless of the extent of their political or military power, to refrain

in their international relations from threatening or using force against the sovereignty and territorial and political integrity of any State, in contravention of the principles and purposes of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

In accordance with those principles and purposes, the Venezuelan Government appreciates the efforts of the United Nations to improve its mediation capacities for addressing crisis situations that could have negative consequences for international peace and stability. It is essential that conflict prevention efforts be carried out in strict accordance with the principles of neutrality and impartiality.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, we have accumulated laudable experience in the use of mediation for conflict resolution. The Rio Group made a major contribution to ending the terrible armed conflicts in Central America in decades past. Recently, the Union of South American Nations has contributed to conflict prevention and solution in some brotherly countries of our continent.

My delegation welcomes the efforts of the experienced Algerian diplomat, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, to reach a peaceful solution to the situation in Syria. It is important to remember that this diplomat led the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide, whose 2008 report asserts that the increasing attacks against personnel and facilities of the United Nations are the product of the end of neutrality and impartiality in the policies of the Organization. That same report states that the image of the United Nations as a humanitarian organization has been undermined and, in its place, the image of a United Nations that subordinates humanitarian activities to the political and military concerns of the great Powers has emerged.

The United Nations should avoid any temptation to promote the indiscriminate, biased and politicized use of coercive measures, including the use of force. In that regard, the United Nations must act neutrally and impartially, and hence in a humanistic way, in order to enhance its capacities as a mediator in cases voluntarily and formally requested by parties to international disputes.

My delegation will join the consensus in adopting draft resolution A/66/L.60, facilitated with great stewardship by the delegations of Turkey and Finland.

Mr. Khan (Indonesia): At the outset, I wish to join others in thanking you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting on the very important issue of strengthening the role of mediation. We thank the Secretary-General for his useful report, pursuant to resolution 65/283, and for the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation (A/66/811 and annex I).

Indonesia has actively participated in both the Group of Friends of Mediation, co-chaired by Turkey and Finland, and in the open-ended consultations that led to last year's resolution 65/283 on mediation, and draft resolution A/66/L.60 before us today, on which we hope befitting action will be taken by all countries. Peace through peaceful means must be approached as the highest priority by the international community with the greatest seriousness, resolve and support.

For its part, Indonesia is not only committed to mediation, but also a passionate advocate of it. We have reaped the benefits of deft, credible and sustained mediation in resolving conflict situations within our borders, and have made use of preventive diplomacy and dialogue to defuse tensions and conflagrations in our region. Indonesia appreciates that the inputs that it has submitted to the Secretariat are reflected in annex II of the Secretary-General's report.

I would like to briefly touch upon the report before us. However, before doing so, allow me say that we highly appreciate the way in which the report was developed, in close consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, both in the United Nations system and outside, including regional and subregional organizations and civil society.

The report lays down some very helpful ways to mainstream the use of mediation globally and to reinforce mediation capacity-building at the regional, national and local levels, including through better partnerships, collaboration, coordination and women's participation. Indonesia subscribes to a stakeholder approach, and fully supports the building of strong partnerships, including with regional entities. We also emphasize the need for greater and sustained support on enhancing mediation and peacemaking capacities locally, nationally and regionally, in particular where conflict occurs or is at risk of ensuing.

Indonesia commends the United Nations for being one of the largest practitioners of mediation. The work of the various United Nations envoys, special representatives and political missions has, to

a significant degree, been critical in helping to defuse crises and to broker many negotiated settlements. However, there is clearly a need for the United Nations system to do more and for Member States and parties to conflicts to resolutely commit to finding peace fairly through political processes and dialogue. While we are encouraged by and commend the increased use of United Nations-led or -supported mediation since 2009, we reiterate that credible, properly supported and sustained political processes with national ownership are crucial.

Indonesia underscores the essential role of the General Assembly in supporting mediation. In that regard, we encourage the Assembly to strengthen its engagement with relevant actors, particularly regional and subregional organizations, which have local knowledge and usually have special historical and cultural ties with the parties in conflict, increasing their chances of success at mediation.

With regard to the report's annexed United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation, it, too, contains many useful ideas. However, each conflict is unique, and we note the non-binding nature of that tool. Its use and dissemination by Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant actors must be voluntary. In that respect, we support the reference to that effect in the draft resolution.

We also support the reference in the draft resolution calling for the Secretary-General to brief Member States on his mediation activities on a regular basis. Indeed, it is helpful for the wider States Members of the United Nations to be consistently informed about the good efforts on mediation by the Secretary-General. Such briefings and cross-fertilization will leverage peacemaking efforts, as well as the oversight role of Member States in United Nations mediation activities.

As our final point, our experiences have taught us a very important lesson: mediation works, but it needs to be nurtured and given space to evolve, with the concrete translation into reality of a sincere will by the parties in conflict.

Mr. Kogda (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this debate. My delegation also welcomes the presence of the Secretary-General at this meeting and takes the opportunity to thank him for presenting his report (A/66/811), pursuant to resolution 65/283.

We also appreciate his tireless efforts to strengthen the mediation role of the United Nations.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the Ambassadors of Finland and Turkey on behalf of the Group of Friends of Mediation. My delegation wishes to make some observations in its national capacity.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of mediation as a preferred way to prevent and peacefully settle disputes, in particular in Africa, where various kinds of crises and conflicts seriously threaten peace and compromise development efforts.

We welcome the report that has just been presented to us. We believe that the Guidance for Effective Mediation is a useful reference for all actors leading mediation processes (see A/66/811, annex I). We also wish to express our appreciation for the significant views and contributions of Member States, pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 65/283, in order to ensure the success of mediation activities.

My delegation wishes to underscore the need to continue and strengthen cooperation and partnerships between the United Nations and subregional and regional organizations in the area of mediation. In that regard, we wish to pay tribute to the work undertaken in that regard by such African regional and subregional organizations as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community.

However, it is important to find the best possible way to forge a strategic relationship between the United Nations and such organizations in order to rationalize the use of resources, utilize local capacities and ensure the success of conflict prevention and settlement activities. The best way to achieve that objective is to strengthen the mediation and conflict prevention capacities of regional organizations, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to ensure specific and predictable resources for mediation activities.

We encourage the Secretary-General to continue support for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union and we welcome the efforts undertaken by United Nations departments, on behalf of the African Union, aimed in particular at strengthening capacities in the field of mediation and conflict resolution.

We are confident that the implementation of the recommendations contained in resolution 65/283 will enable us to strengthen the role of mediation in the prevention and settlement of disputes. For its part, Burkina Faso reiterates its readiness to lend its modest contribution to collective efforts to prevent and settle disputes through its involvement in mediation processes, in particular in Western Africa.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to commend the statements of the Secretary-General and the President concerning mediation and forgiveness. There is no doubt that the approach of mediation, and the attendant values of tolerance, forgiveness and reconciliation in settling disputes and conflicts, will lead to the optimum sustainable resolution of conflicts. It is therefore important for the United Nations to value and uphold the concept of tolerance and forgiveness in the context of mediation.

In that regard, the vision of the Security Council must be consistent with that of the General Assembly. It is important that the Security Council avoid approaches that run counter to those of mediation and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Those two principal organs of the United Nations must speak with one voice. While the General Assembly upholds the approach of mediation and resorts to the peaceful settlement of disputes, that approach should not be contradicted by other solutions endorsed by the Security Council that promote the culture of war and escalate tensions in current conflicts.

The delegation of the Sudan, while endorsing the importance of mediation, recalls the successful experience of the fraternal State of South Africa after the heinous era of apartheid. It is important to build on that experience, which relied on forgiveness and tolerance to settle the dispute.

For a long time, my country, the Sudan, has enjoyed success in settling tribal disputes through mediation mechanisms, which are known as "*ajaweed*" and are based on tolerance and forgiveness. They have led to the settlement and resolution of numerous internal conflicts. We therefore call upon the United Nations, represented by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Security Council, to continue to uphold the approach of mediation and its attendant forgiveness and tolerance in order to achieve reconciliation in Darfur, instead of resorting to an unfair

judicial regime, which is politicized in the context of the International Criminal Court. Modern experience has proved that the Court's intervention complicates conflicts and hinders the approach of mediation and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

My Government, in cooperation with the United Nations and the African Union and under the sponsorship of fraternal Qatar, has achieved great success in strengthening the peace process in Darfur through negotiation and peaceful means, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution" (A/66/811), which is before the Assembly today. In that regard, I appeal to all delegations to support those efforts and no others.

I conclude by emphasizing our support for draft resolution A/66/L.60, entitled "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution".

The President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

In view of the desire of Members to dispose of this item expeditiously, I should like to consult the Assembly with a view to proceeding immediately to consider draft resolution A/66/L.60. In this connection, since the draft resolution has only been circulated this morning, it would be necessary to waive the relevant provision of rule 78 of the rules of procedure which reads as follows:

"As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

Unless I hear any objection, I will take it that the Assembly agrees with that proposal.

It was so decided.

The President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/66/L.60, entitled "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Graisse (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to those delegations listed in document A/66/L.60, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Paraguay, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Samoa, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.60?

Draft resolution A/66/L.60 was adopted (resolution 66/291).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Díaz Bartolomé (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Republic of Argentina joined the consensus on the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution". In so doing, Argentina reaffirms once again its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as its conviction that multilateralism is a principle fundamental to international peace and security.

Although all methods for the settlement of disputes are equally valid in terms of resolving international disputes, we wish to stress in particular our conviction that it is only through these methods that we can ensure that the solutions reached are just and lasting ones. That requires the use of mediation, which, as stated in the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation, has its own logic and may or may not coexist with other methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes, such as facilitation, good offices and efforts at dialogue.

In that context, we would underline the specific role that the Charter entrusts to the Secretary-General in the field of good offices and mediation.

Argentina stresses that the Guidance refers to the need for the parties to consent to participating in a specific process involving the peaceful settlement of disputes. It is clear, however, that the higher obligation of all Member States to settle disputes by peaceful means can never itself be subject to the consent of the parties. For that reason, it is not acceptable that the validity of a mandate imposed by the international community on the Secretary-General be made conditional on the consent of the parties to a conflict.

In that framework, the Republic of Argentina once again reiterates that it expects successful results from the good offices mission entrusted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations in successive resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on Decolonization on the question of the Malvinas Islands. It also reiterates its expectation that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will honour its commitment to the Charter and the Organization and resume negotiations with our country with a view to finding a peaceful solution to that dispute at the earliest possible date.

The President: I shall now call on those representatives wishing to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

May I remind members that statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Benedict (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom would like to exercise its right of reply to the previous statement made by the representative of Argentina.

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The British Government attaches great importance to the principle of self-determination, as set out in Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and in article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That principle underlies our position on the Falkland Islands. There can be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the islanders themselves so wish.

The democratically elected representatives of the Falkland Islands once again expressed their own views

clearly when they visited the United Nations for the 2012 session of the Special Committee on Decolonization. They asked the Committee to recognize that they, like any other people, were entitled to exercise the right of self-determination. They reiterated the historical facts that the Falkland Islands had no indigenous people and that no civilian population had been removed prior to their people settling on the islands over eight generations ago. They confirmed that they are and always have been the only people of the Falkland Islands and that they did not wish for any change in the status of the islands.

Mr. Díaz Bartolomé (Argentina) (spoke in Spanish): The delegation of Argentina, speaking in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom on the Malvinas Islands, reiterates in all its terms the statement made by the President of Argentina to the Decolonization Committee on 14 June 2012.

The Government of Argentina recalls that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of the national territory of Argentina, and that owing to their illegal occupation by the United Kingdom, they are the object of a sovereignty dispute between both countries that has been recognized by various international organizations.

That illegal occupation by the United Kingdom led the General Assembly to adopt a number of resolutions, including resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, all of which acknowledge the existence of the sovereignty dispute connected to the question of the Malvinas and urge the Governments of Argentina and of the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute. Statements to that effect were made by the Special Committee on Decolonization on 14 June 2012, as well as by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, among other bodies.

Argentina deems it regrettable that the British Government is attempting to distort historical facts with the obvious goal of covering up the act of usurpation committed in 1833, which, since the inception of the British invasion, has been the object of continued, repeated protests by Argentina. That distortion also makes clear the obvious lack of certainty on the part of the United Kingdom with regard to what it considers its rights in connection with the question of the Malvinas.

Argentina would remind the United Kingdom of its commitment, expressed unequivocally by both countries, to undertake efforts aimed at achieving an amicable solution to their sovereignty dispute, as mandated by the General Assembly. Instead of attempting to refute accepted historical facts whose consequences are well known, the United Kingdom should honour that commitment and immediately resume negotiations with our country on the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas, to arrive at the just and lasting solution to the dispute that the international community is calling for.

Argentina reiterates that the principle of the self-determination of peoples, which is the only element on which the United Kingdom is attempting to base its argument in this case and which is used exclusively in the case of the Malvinas Islands, is clearly totally inappropriate and not applicable to this dispute. In the same vein, Argentina regrets that the United Kingdom continues irresponsibly to generate expectations among the inhabitants of the islands based on the illicit exploitation of Argentinian natural resources, in open violation of international law.

Argentina reaffirms its legitimate sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas, since they are an integral part of the national territory of Argentina.

Mr. Benedict (United Kingdom): I will be brief. The United Kingdom does not consider that a conflict exists over the Falkland Islands, and I reiterate what I previously stated, that we have no doubts whatsoever about the United Kingdom's sovereignty over those islands.

Mr. Díaz Bartolomé (Argentina) (spoke in Spanish): I will be very brief. With regard to the statement just made by the representative of the United Kingdom, Argentina fully reiterates the statement made by the President of our nation to the Special Committee on Decolonization on 14 June, and recalls that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of our national territory. Being illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, they are the object of a sovereignty dispute between both countries recognized by the General Assembly, which has called for its resolution.

In conclusion, Argentina once again reaffirms its legitimate sovereign rights over the the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas.

The President. The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 34 and of agenda item 34 as a whole.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.



General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

129th plenary meeting
Thursday, 13 September 2012, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 122 (continued)

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly held a debate on agenda item 122 at its 51st and 52nd plenary meetings on 8 and 9 November 2011. Members will also recall that, pursuant to its decision 65/554 of 12 September 2011, the Assembly continued intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform at an informal plenary meeting during the current session. At a later date, on 12 September 2012, I circulated for consideration by Member States language for an oral decision on that important issue.

May I now therefore take it that the General Assembly decides, first, to reaffirm the central role of the General Assembly on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council; secondly, to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform and informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, as mandated by General Assembly decisions 62/557 of 15 September 2008, 63/565 of 14 September 2009, 64/568 of 13 September 2010, 65/554 of 12 September 2011, building on the progress achieved during the sixty-sixth session as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, while welcoming the active engagement, initiatives

and intensive efforts of the President of the General Assembly, including the selection of United Nations reform as one of the main areas of focus for the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, and taking note of the proposals of the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations, and noting with appreciation his active role and concrete efforts, including the preparation of the text reflecting the positions of and proposals submitted by Member States with a view to an early comprehensive reform of the Security Council; thirdly, to convene the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly if Member States so decide; and fourthly, to include on the agenda of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters"?

It was so decided.

The President: I should now like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Zahir Tanin of Afghanistan for chairing the negotiations on my behalf and for doing so in a way that was impartial to any position, yet imperative to moving forward.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 122?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

12-50783 (E)



Please recycle



General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

130th plenary meeting
Monday, 17 September 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar)

The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.

Agenda item 39

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

The President: In connection with this item, I have received a letter dated 3 August 2012 from the representative of Azerbaijan, in which he requests that the consideration of this item be deferred to the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to defer its consideration of the item and to include in the draft agenda of the sixty-seventh session an item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan"?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 39?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 40

Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte

The President: Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly decided to include this item in its agenda on the understanding that there would be no consideration of this item by the Assembly until further notice.

In connection with the item, I have received a note verbale dated 16 August 2012 from the Permanent

Mission of the Comoros to the United Nations requesting the inclusion of this item in the provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh session.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to include an item entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte" in the draft agenda of the sixty-seventh session?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 40?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 42

The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

The President: Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the Assembly decided to include item 42 in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session, in accordance with decision 60/508, of 31 October 2005. In that decision the General Assembly decided that this item shall remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State. Accordingly, this item has been included in the draft agenda of the sixty-seventh session.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 42?

It was so decided.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

12-51073 (E)



Please recycle

Agenda items 43 to 48

Question of Cyprus

Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security

Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait

The President: Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the Assembly decided to include items 43 to 48 in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session, in accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to resolution 58/316, of 1 July 2004. In that resolution the General Assembly decided that those items shall remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State. Accordingly, those items have been included in the draft agenda of the sixty-seventh session.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda items 43 to 48?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 125

Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme

The President: Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session.

In connection with this item, I have received a letter dated 14 September from the representative of Costa Rica, in which he requests that consideration of the item be deferred to the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to defer consideration of agenda item 125 and to include it in the draft agenda of the sixty-seventh session?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 125?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 153

Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor

The President: Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of its sixty-seventh session?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 153?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 162 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

The President: Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session.

Members will also recall that, under agenda item 162, the Assembly adopted resolution 66/244, at its 93rd plenary meeting, on 24 December 2011.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to defer consideration

of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of its sixty-seventh session?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 162?

It was so decided.

Agenda items remaining for consideration during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly

The President: I should like to remind delegations that the following agenda items, on which action has been taken at previous meetings, have remained open for consideration during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly: items 9, 11, 14, 15, 22, 22 (a), 30, 31, 34, 34 (a), 36, 37, 64, 70, 70 (a), (b) and (c), 110, 111, 113, 114, 114 (a) and (c), 115, 115 (f) and (i), 116, 117, 120, 123, 123 (a) and (b), 125, 127, 128, 129 and 131 to 165.

As members are aware, these items have been included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly with the exception of sub-item (c) of agenda item 114, entitled "Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme"; sub-item (i) of agenda item 115, entitled "Appointment of the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal"; agenda item 133, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011"; agenda item 134, entitled "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013"; agenda item 151, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo"; and agenda item 155, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea".

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda items 9, 11, 14, 15, 22, 22 (a), 30, 31, 34, 34 (a), 36, 37, 64, 70, 70 (a) to (c), 110, 111, 113, 114, 114 (a) and (c), 115, 115 (f) and (i), 116, 117, 120, 123, 123 (a) and (b), 125, 127 to 129 and 131 to 165 at the present session?

It was so decided.

The President: May I also take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to include agenda items 9, 11, 14, 15, 22, 22 (a), 30, 31, 34, 36, 37, 64, 70, 70 (a), (b) and (c), 110, 111, 113, 114, 114 (a), 115, 115 (f), 116, 117, 120, 123, 123 (a) and (b), 125, 127 to 129, 131, 132, 135

to 150, 152 to 154 and 156 to 165 in the draft agenda of the sixty-seventh session?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7 (continued)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 27 and its sub-items at its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011. In order for the Assembly to take action on the draft resolution, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 27. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen its consideration of agenda item 27?

It was so decided.

The President: Members will further recall that at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly decided to allocate agenda item 27 to the Third Committee. To enable the General Assembly to take action expeditiously on the document, may I also take it that the Assembly wishes to consider agenda item 27 directly in plenary meeting and proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 27 (continued)

Social development

Draft resolution (A/66/L.59/Rev.1)

The President: I would like to make an oral revision to draft resolution A/66/L.59/Rev.1, as follows. All preambular paragraphs in the text should be deleted.

We shall now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/66/L.59/Rev.1, entitled "Global Day of Parents", as orally revised.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.59/Rev.1, as orally revised?

Draft resolution A/66/L.59/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 66/292).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted, may I remind delegations that explanations of position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Ulibarri (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): Costa Rica welcomes the attention that you have given, Mr. President, to the issue of the family. We should have preferred the text we have adopted to have benefitted from an open consultation process, particularly since the subject is of interest to everybody. Although, like other countries of our region, we did have an opportunity to submit written proposals, we did not have an opportunity to personally explain our proposals and concerns on the subject. My delegation considers it important that the proclamation of a Global Day of Parents be an element of the global human rights instruments relating to the subject and such important concepts as the best interests of the child.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Chile supported the consensus adoption of resolution 66/292, "Global Day of Parents". In Chile, article I of the Political Constitution of the State, on institutions, provides that families are the central nucleus of society. However, like the delegation of Costa Rica, my delegation should have wished to participate in informal consultations to discuss the best methods and actions to contribute to promoting those important ideas. We should remember in that regard that an entire international framework embodies the concepts made up of the principal human rights instruments, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration itself, the former providing as fundamental principal the best interests of the child.

Mr. Emiliou (Cyprus): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States. We acknowledge the important work you have done over the past year, Mr. President, and thank you for your active engagement with the United Nations membership.

With regard to resolution 66/292 on the Global Day of Parents, we joined the consensus, but we would like to make three points. First, although we appreciate that ultimately we were able to submit amendments, we regret that, despite similar requests from other groups of countries, the call for informal consultations was not heeded.

Secondly, there is no evidence that the proclamation and dedication of "days", "years" or "decades" has an impact on policy.

In fact, the United Nations already celebrates the International Day of Families, on 15 May, which, in our view, includes the interest of parents worldwide.

Thirdly, we regret the choice of 1 June for the Global Day of Parents for it is in many countries in Europe and around the world a well-established day dedicated to children. No substantial reasons were given to explain why the United Nations needed to proclaim a new day on 1 June.

In view of the full protection of the rights of the child, we understand that this resolution fully complies with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation.

Mr. Guerber (Switzerland): I have the honour to make this statement following the adoption of resolution 66/292, on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland. We would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having postponed the date for the adoption of this resolution, which has given us more time to reflect upon your proposal. We joined the consensus on the resolution. However, we would like to clarify our position on three points.

Firstly, we strongly regret that no open informal consultations took place on such an important topic, as various opinions coexist on the issue among the United Nations membership. Secondly, we do not see added value in the introduction of a new Global Day of Parents, since an International Day of Families already exists that allows for the recognition of the roles of parents and other important caregivers. Finally, with respect to the proposed date for the new Global Day, we believe that 1 June is not a felicitous date, as it conflicts with the International Children's Day celebrated in many countries. We believe that this day should continue to be exclusively devoted to children around the world and their respective rights and needs.

Mr. Butt (Pakistan): I have the honour to deliver this explanation of position on resolution 66/292.

We welcome your initiative, Mr. President, to proclaim 1 June as the Global Day of Parents to be observed annually by the General Assembly. Such recognition is in order to honour and recognize the

valuable contributions made by parents all over the world belonging to all religions, cultures and societies. Indeed, the role of parents as the primary caregivers, teachers and providers of critical support for the upbringing and development of the child is well-recognized by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We were therefore happy to see that the first draft of the resolution acknowledged that goal. The revised version of the text included some language that, in our view, did not correspond to the role ascribed to parents by the Convention. However, we acknowledge your wise decision, Mr. President, to further revise orally the revised version, which led to addressing those anomalies. We are accordingly happy to support the resolution as adopted

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position following the adoption of the resolution.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 27?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7 (continued)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly concluded its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 63 at its 122nd plenary meeting, on 23 July. In order for the Assembly to take action on draft resolution A/66/L.63, it will be necessary to reopen the consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 63.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 63?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 63 (continued)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda

item 63 and its sub-items (a) and (b) and agenda item 13 at its 32nd and 33rd plenary meetings, on 11 October 2011. Members will also recall that, under sub-item (a), the Assembly adopted resolution 66/286 at its 122nd plenary meeting, on 23 July.

The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/66/L.63, entitled "A monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.63?

It was so decided.

Draft resolution A/66/L.63 was adopted (resolution 66/293).

The President: I should like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya and Ambassador Mårten Grunditz of Sweden, the two co-facilitators of the consultations, who so ably conducted the discussions and complex negotiations. I am sure that members of the Assembly will join me in extending to them our sincere appreciation.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 63 and of agenda item 63 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 121 (continued)

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda item 121 and agenda item 120, at its 70th plenary meeting, on 1 December 2011. The Assembly has before it the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, which has been circulated in document A/66/891.

The Assembly also has before it a draft resolution contained in paragraph 77 of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", contained in paragraph 77 of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 66/294).

The President: I should now like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Susan Waffa-Ogoo of the Gambia and Ambassador Alexander Lomaia of Georgia, the two co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group, who have so ably conducted the discussions and complex negotiations of the Working Group. I am sure that the members of the Assembly join me in extending to them our sincere appreciation.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 121?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 124 (continued)

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Draft resolution (A/66/L.62)

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly considered agenda item 124, in a joint debate, with agenda item 14, agenda item 117, and agenda item 123 and its sub-item (a) at its 72nd plenary meeting, on 2 December 2011, and adopted resolution 66/254 at its 98th plenary meeting, on 23 February 2012.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/66/L.62, entitled "Extension of the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system".

I now give the floor to the representative of Iceland.

Ms. Gunnarsdóttir (Iceland): Allow me to make a few corrections to the text contained in document A/66/L.62. These corrections reflect the text as negotiated.

In the first line of the first preambular paragraph, the words "by" and "it" should be deleted.

The third preambular paragraph should be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

"Taking note also of the report of the President of the General Assembly on the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system".

In the first line of the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "of" should be deleted and replaced by the word "from". In the second line, the word "of" should be deleted, to read "as well as experts".

In the second line of operative paragraph 1, the words "in order" should be deleted. In the fourth line, the word "needed" should be inserted before the words "to strengthen".

Finally, in the third line of operative paragraph 2, the word "considering" should be replaced by the word "consider".

The President: I take note of the corrections just made. The Secretariat will reflect the changes in the final version of the document.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/66/L.62, entitled "Extension of the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system", as orally corrected.

The Assembly will now take action on the draft resolution.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.62?

Draft resolution A/66/L.62, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 66/295).

The President: On this occasion, let me thank the two co-facilitators, Ambassador Gréta Gunnarsdóttir of Iceland and Ambassador Desra Percaya of Indonesia, for their diligence and hard work in tackling this important issue. I would also like to thank Member States for their tendency towards a spirit of cooperation and compromise. That is the way in which we should go forward, and I sincerely hope that Member States will continue to build upon what is commonly shared and to see the big picture in the important task that lies ahead of them.

Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Lukiyantsev (Russian Federation) (spoke in Russian): I wish to draw the Assembly's attention to

a mistake in the Russian-language text of the draft resolution.

The phrase "and the contribution" is missing from the first line of the fifth preambular paragraph.

(spoke in English)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the cross-regional group that includes the following States: Belarus, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Iran, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Syria, Venezuela and my own country, the Russian Federation. We were pleased to join the consensus on the adoption of resolution 66/295, entitled "Extension of the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system". We are particularly satisfied that the text is fully in line with the provisions of the founding resolution on the subject, namely, resolution 66/254.

The cross-regional group attaches great importance to the goal of strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. We continue to be committed to constructive dialogue and negotiations aimed at reaching a successful consensus outcome of the intergovernmental process established in accordance with resolution 66/254. The group is convinced that the end result of the process should contribute to consolidating the capacity of the human rights treaty body system to fulfil its principle task under the relevant international treaties, that is, to assist States parties in implementing their obligations in accordance with the respective human rights instruments.

From the beginning of the intergovernmental process, the cross-regional group has engaged with other States in a constructive spirit and has made a number of specific proposals on strengthening the treaty body system and improving its functioning. Those proposals — this is by no means an exhaustive list — include the elaboration of a code of conduct for members of the treaty bodies and the establishment of a relevant accountability mechanism for experts; guaranteeing the observance of the principle of equitable geographical representation in electing members of the treaty bodies; strengthening the mechanisms for meetings of conferences of States parties; and increasing the transparency of contacts between the treaty bodies and relevant stakeholders in the process of considering reports by States parties. The cross-regional group looks forward to continuing to discuss those and other

proposals during future meetings within the framework of the intergovernmental process.

We believe that strict compliance with the basic provisions of resolution 66/254 is crucial for the success of the negotiations ahead of us. Those elements include maintaining the intergovernmental nature of the process in the General Assembly, in particular by respecting the current modalities set out in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the resolution; and the possibility of discussing any proposal on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system coming from any State or group of States, which also follows from the authority of the General Assembly under the Charter of the United Nations.

The cross-regional group would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere and profound appreciation to you, Mr. President, to the members of your team who have been engaged in the intergovernmental process, and especially to the two co-facilitators, Ambassador Gréta Gunnarsdóttir and Ambassador Desra Percaya, for all their efforts and hard work throughout the intergovernmental process. We look forward to their reappointment by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. We equally extend our thanks to the members of the co-facilitators' team, in particular Mr. Mochammad Chandra Yudha and Mr. Ahmad Arief Adnan of Indonesia and Mr. Thorvardur Atli Thórsson of Iceland.

The cross-regional group fully shares the co-facilitators' assessment of the overall approach of Member States during the past months as both positive and constructive. It is crucial that we continue in the same spirit and with the same dedication to our common cause. I ask members to please consider this statement as a reflection of our group's commitment and dedication to the letter and spirit of resolution 66/254, on the intergovernmental process.

Ms. Gunnarsdóttir (Iceland): I am making this statement on behalf of the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process, namely, Iceland and Indonesia. Allow me, at the outset, Mr. President, to reiterate our appreciation for the trust and honour that you have conferred upon us and our countries to facilitate such an important process related to the human rights treaty body system.

As laid out in resolution 66/254, we sought, through the mandate that given us to us by the President, to conduct open, transparent and inclusive

negotiations on how to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. We therefore sought to provide a common platform for Member States to discuss and deliberate upon this very complex but important issue. That included a series of thematic discussions on issues related to the reporting process, methods of work, the capacity to implement and resources, as well as on the previous reports by the Secretary-General and the recent report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the outcome of her multistakeholder process. In addition, during the intergovernmental process we heard interventions and received written inputs from non-State actors representing the treaty body system, national human rights institutions and civil society. We believe that those interventions and contributions supported the intergovernmental process by providing additional information and perspectives that enriched the discussions. We wish to thank them for sharing their expertise on this matter.

We would furthermore like to emphasize that, in the view of the co-facilitators, the overall approach of Member States during the process was positive and constructive. Our observation is that, throughout the negotiations, delegations exhibited a strong sense of commitment and a spirit of cooperation and compromise, which we believe sets a positive tone for future engagement in that process.

Finally, allow me to express the heartfelt appreciation of the co-facilitators for the contribution of Member States to the intergovernmental process. As resolution 66/295, which we have just adopted, states, strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system is a common goal of us all. This positive atmosphere should allow the process to advance in a constructive way with the shared objective of strengthening the treaty body system as a whole.

Ms. Razzouk (United States of America): The United States would like to thank the co-facilitators of this process, the Ambassadors of Iceland and Indonesia, for all of their efforts. We look forward to continuing the dialogue on strengthening the treaty body system.

As we said throughout the negotiations, the United States does not support a code of conduct for the treaty bodies. We believe that non-governmental organizations must continue to be included in all aspects of the discussion throughout this process. We thank the co-facilitators for bringing forward this text.

We will continue to engage with other delegations on the dialogue going forward.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 124?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7 (continued)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 66 and its sub-items at its 89th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2011. In order for the Assembly to take action on draft resolution A/66/L.61, it will be necessary to reopen its consideration of agenda item 66.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen its consideration of agenda item 66?

It was so decided.

The President: Members will further recall that at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly decided to allocate agenda item 66 to the Third Committee. To enable the General Assembly to take action expeditiously on this item, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to consider agenda item 66 directly in plenary meeting and to proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 66 (continued)

Rights of indigenous peoples

Draft resolution (A/66/L.61)

The President: I should now like to make the following oral corrections to draft resolution A/66/L.61.

The last part of sub-paragraph (j) of paragraph 3 should read:

“submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis, and bring the list to the attention of the General Assembly;”.

In paragraph 5, the words “full and effective” should be deleted. The paragraph should therefore read:

"Encourages the participation of indigenous women, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities in the World Conference;"

In connection with draft resolution A/66/L.61, as orally corrected, I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Graisse (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft resolution A/66/L.61, entitled "Organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples", as orally corrected, I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Under the terms of paragraphs 1 and 3 (a) of draft resolution A/66/L.61, as orally corrected, the General Assembly would decide that the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, will be held on Monday, 22 September, and on the afternoon of Tuesday, 23 September 2014.

The Assembly would also decide that the organizational arrangements of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples shall be as follows. The World Conference will be composed of two plenary meetings, in the form of an opening and a closing session, three interactive round tables and one informal panel discussion. The opening meeting will start at 9.00 a.m., and two round tables will take place simultaneously on the afternoon of Monday, 22 September.

The opening and closing plenary meetings, as well as one of the parallel round tables, will require three meetings with interpretation in all six languages, and they will use the entitlements of the General Assembly. Verbatim reports in all six languages will be provided only for the plenary meetings. The two round tables and the informal panel discussion will therefore constitute an addition of three meetings, with interpretation in all six languages, to the meeting workload of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management. That would constitute an additional requirement to the amount of \$33,300 for meetings in 2014.

Furthermore, additional documentation comprising 32 pages of post-session documentation in all six official languages would be required in 2014. That would constitute an additional requirement to the amount of \$62,300 for documentation services in 2014.

Consequently, an additional requirement of \$95,600 for the biennium 2014-2015 would arise under section 2, "General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management", for meeting servicing and documentation.

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/66/L.61, additional resources in the amount of \$95,600 would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 under section 2, "General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management". That would require additional appropriations of \$95,600 to be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

The President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/66/L.61, entitled "Organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples", as orally corrected.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.61, as orally corrected?

Draft resolution A/66/L.61, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 66/296).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Makriyiannis (Cyprus): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the leadership and extensive efforts of the co-facilitators, His Excellency Luis-Alfonso de Alba, Permanent Representative of Mexico, and Mr. John Henriksen, international representative of the Sami Parliament of Norway, during the negotiations of resolution 66/296. We would also like to note our appreciation for the high degree of professionalism, openness and creativity on the part of the co-facilitators and their team throughout this process in bringing together a number of diverging positions to achieve our shared goal of providing a basis for a successful World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. We also note the close consultations with indigenous peoples conducted by the co-facilitators. We highly value the outcome reached in our discussions.

The European Union fully supports the World Conference and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples through all stages of the Conference. We look forward to the participation and contribution of indigenous peoples at the Conference and believe that the resolution allows Member States and indigenous peoples to work closely together through the preparatory process as well as during the Conference.

In that regard, we would like to make one comment on the text just adopted, with reference to the full participation of civil society in the Conference. We firmly believe that maintaining a strong and open dialogue with civil society groups within the rules of procedure of the General Assembly will be an important contribution to the Conference. We regret that this principle could not be fully reflected in the text owing to the reluctance of some Member States.

We have consistently noted throughout the consultations on this resolution that the process of admission for non-governmental organizations to participate in the World Conference should be transparent and allow for the full involvement of the General Assembly. It is our interpretation of operative paragraph 3 (j) that, within the Assembly, Member States will receive full information on the applications and will be able to make a final decision on the presence of civil society representatives or specific non-governmental organizations.

We once again thank all colleagues for their efforts to reach a consensus. We would also like to extend our warm gratitude to both co-facilitators for their persistent efforts to accommodate all views expressed in the negotiations. We highly value the close cooperation that we have shared throughout this process.

Mr. Lukiyantsev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The delegation of the Russian Federation joined in the consensus on the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/66/L.61. We would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Mexico, Mr. De Alba, for his efforts to coordinate the difficult negotiating process on this document.

The Russian Federation sets great store by international efforts to protect the rights and interests of indigenous peoples around the world, and we are convinced that the General Assembly can play a tangible role in achieving that goal. These were the deciding factors when we made the decision to support

the initiative on the holding of a world conference on indigenous peoples in the format of a General Assembly plenary meeting. We believe that the success of the Conference will depend largely on strict compliance with the modalities of the forum.

In that respect, we would like to stress that nothing in this resolution should be construed as annulling or modifying the existing rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the status of the General Assembly as the highest intergovernmental body, or the procedure for the harmonization of documents for their subsequent adoption by the Assembly.

The following paragraphs should be viewed from that perspective: the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 3, 5, 7, 9 and 12. This is especially the case in the context of accreditation and of participation in preparing and harmonizing the draft outcome document of the World Conference.

In conclusion, we would like to note the important role played by the coordinators of the negotiating process, as appointed by the President of the General Assembly, who are charged with facilitating the quest for mutual understanding among Member States and ensuring that no unfounded and irresponsible statements are made that could distort the fundamental positions of official delegations. Sadly, in this case, those requirements were satisfied only by the Member States coordinator. We hope that lessons will be learned from those negative experiences.

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia would like to refer to draft resolution A/66/L.61, on the organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2014.

Bolivia would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Ambassador Luis-Alfonso de Alba, Permanent Representative of Mexico, and Mr. John Henriksen, international representative of the Sami Parliament, who, on behalf of the General Assembly, guided the informal consultations on the draft resolution. We are of the view that this document is the outcome of broad-based, constructive and transparent negotiations.

For the first time in history, and 69 years after the founding of the United Nations, a High-level Plenary

Meeting of the General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples will be held in 2014. It will be the outcome of more than 20 years of negotiations, which is the time it took to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples, until finally, in September 2007, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted. There can be no doubt that this Conference will be a new milestone for the more than 370 million indigenous peoples throughout the world.

It is important to recall that almost two months after the adoption of the historic Declaration, during the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government held in November 2007 in Santiago de Chile, with the support of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, our brother, the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Evo Morales Ayma, put forward the idea that the United Nations might organize a world conference on indigenous peoples. However, that original idea has only been half fulfilled: although in 2014 we will hold such a conference, it will take place in the format of a high-level plenary meeting. But we are sure that in future the dream of holding a United Nations conference on indigenous peoples will be realized.

The modalities resolution that we have just adopted deals with basic aspects: the date, the format of the conference and the form that the opening plenary meeting will take, with the participation of three indigenous peoples' representatives and the Chairs of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Likewise, it sets out the format for the informal round-table discussions, which will be co-chaired by Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples.

A second key element of this modalities resolution relates to the accreditation of the representatives and institutions of indigenous peoples, which is a clearly differentiated process. In operative paragraphs 3 (h), (i) and (j) of the resolution, for example, it is stated that non-governmental organizations of civil society, academic institutions and national human rights institutions will be included. That definition makes it clear once again that indigenous peoples can never be considered non-governmental organizations.

A third element we deem important is the fact that the 2014 Conference will produce an action-oriented outcome document aimed at contributing to the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, with a

view to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the goal of promoting the achievement of the internationally agreed development objectives.

Lastly, we would like to draw attention to the commitment of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and of its indigenous peoples to participating actively in all of the preparatory processes and in the 2014 Conference. We can assure the Assembly of the presence of our President, Evo Morales Ayma, as the first indigenous constitutional President, at the opening session of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which is to be held on 22 September 2014.

Mr. Grunditz (Sweden): Sweden welcomes the adoption of the resolution on the modalities of the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples and, like others, we would like in particular to extend our gratitude to the two co-facilitators. We are particularly pleased that the resolution stresses the importance of including the participation of indigenous peoples, which is fully in line with the objective of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Swedish Government is committed to the active involvement of indigenous peoples in the preparation for and in the World Conference. My Government has therefore decided to contribute \$100,000 to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. We encourage other Governments that have not already done so and other stakeholders to consider joining us.

Sweden also sees merit in the General Assembly's adoption of a decision, in the near future, setting out general procedures that would apply to the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives at United Nations meetings, given that indigenous peoples' representatives are not always organized as non-governmental organizations and that issues affecting them are not limited to human rights.

Ms. Robi (United States of America): The United States would like to add our thanks to Ambassador De Alba of Mexico and Mr. John Henriksen for their efforts in facilitating the discussions of the modalities of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

There are more than 370 million indigenous people who live in some 90 countries around the world. We

honour their immeasurable contributions to society and call upon all States to work together with indigenous communities to meet our common challenges. Throughout negotiations on this document, we have underscored the important role indigenous peoples and civil society organizations should play through their participation in that Conference.

The process of admission for civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to participate in the Conference must be completely transparent. Paragraph 3 (h) of resolution 66/296 states that indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions:

"should be invited to submit applications to the Secretariat through an open and transparent accreditation procedure, in accordance with the established practice".

But we are not aware of a set practice in this regard. The procedures of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples differ from each other. The resolution does not define a process by which indigenous groups will be accredited to the High-level Meeting, and therefore this issue will require further consideration by Member States, in consultation with indigenous people and other stakeholders.

We understand paragraph 3 (j) to mean that the list of non-governmental organizations and other potential participants will be sent to the General Assembly for its consideration, where Member States will evaluate any possible objections made by other States.

Paragraph 9 concerns the World Conference outcome document. As the World Conference is a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, Member States have the responsibility to negotiate the outcome document and consider it for adoption. However, indigenous peoples' input from the preparatory process and the World Conference itself will be taken into account during the negotiations. These concepts are contained in paragraph 9, which refers to:

"inclusive and open informal consultations at an appropriate date to enable sufficient consideration by Member States and agreement by the General Assembly before its formal action at the high-level meeting".

We are also concerned with paragraph 12, which requests the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples, to finalize the organizational arrangements of the World Conference. All decisions about the World Conference that are not delegated in this paragraph should remain with the Member States.

The United States looks forward to continued cooperation to make the World Conference a productive session.

Ms. Li Xiaomei (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China attaches great importance to the protection of indigenous peoples' rights. The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples will give us a great opportunity to discuss and deliberate on the protection of indigenous peoples' rights. We steadfastly support the convening of this World Conference and we support the participation of indigenous representatives in the Conference in accordance with General Assembly procedures.

With respect to the accreditation of non-governmental organizations, we believe that the Charter of the United Nations, Economic and Social Council decision 1996/31 and the relevant procedures should be strictly adhered to.

Finally, we appreciate the work of the President of the General Assembly and thank the co-facilitators and their team for their efforts in the discussion on resolution 66/296, and we will continue to work with them.

The President: We have heard the last speaker on this item.

I should now like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Luis-Alfonso de Alba of Mexico and Mr. John Henriksen, the two co-facilitators of the consultations, who so ably conducted the discussions and complex negotiations. I am sure that members of the Assembly join me in extending to them our sincere appreciation.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 66?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.